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A SERIES OF Indostan Letters

BY

BAR.W BURGES

Containing

A striking account of the manners & customs of the Gentoo Nations & of the Moguls & other Mahomedan Tribes in Indostan with other polemical East India Tracts both amusing, interesting, & perfectly original.

N. York

Printed & published for the AUTHOR BY W. ROSS.

Shepherd Scrip.t Rollinson Sculp.t

BRITISH MUSEUM

DEDICATION.

To JOHN LAMB, *Esquire, Brigadier-General in the Army of the United States of America, and Collector of the Port of New-York.*

SIR,

IF *the following pages, rather replete with than destitute of originality and variety, composed from a number of recent and local observations made on a country as remarkable for it's opulence as for the singularity of the manners and customs of its inhabitants, and richness of its manufactures, (conceived in a stile peculiarly adapted to the different subjects which constitute the work) may serve to characterize a people, by exhibiting them in a more impartial light than what other writers have hitherto been pleased to do;*

whoſe connection is not only courted by the whole commercial world, but whoſe opulence, munificence and traffic, the great egreſs and regreſs our American ſhips have had to thoſe parts alluded to, viz. Indoſtan and India infra *Ganges, ſince the Independence of the United States of America, have become a matter of general converſation and national attention, may in anywiſe claim the patronage of a perſon whoſe eminent ſervices to his country in both a military and civil capacity, have placed him in as exalted as uſeful a ſphere of life,—permit me to prefix theſe few lines to my work, and it will be eſteemed an honor done to the undertaking, and a favor confered on,*

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Sir,

Your obliged and
Obedient humble Servant,

BARTHOLOMEW BURGES.

City of New-York,
Nov. 1790.

INTRODUCTION.

SHAH AULLIM's affairs having been for upwards of theſe thirty years ſo inſeparably connected with the Eaſt-India Company, as to render it difficult to proceed on any intelligible diſplay of their complex ſyſtem in India, until what gave riſe to this above hinted connection was elucidated, as a ſcene ſeemingly in ſome meaſure neceſſary to open, before any ſatisfactory deſcription could be given of a people of different religions and ſects, the fate of war, revolutions in government, and unaccountable viciſſitudes of fortune in an Empire like Indoſtan, jumbled together, and rendered ſubſervient to the mercenary views of Regents and different made Emperors, tottering on a diſlocated throne, and a ſet of upſtart *Soubahs* and *Nabobs*, ſet up by the contrivances of the Engliſh Eaſt-India Company's ſervants, at the expence of rapine and bloodſhed, I reſolved, by way of introduction, on an illuſtration of the matter; and thinking Mr. Maire has in as few words, and as expreſſive terms as conveniently need be, related how the Engliſh Eaſt-India Company happened to be originated, I have taken the liberty to quote him on this occaſion.

'THE Engliſh Eaſt-India Company,' ſays this ingenious gentleman, 'was incorporated about the '42d year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, A. D. '1600, and empowered to trade to all theſe new 'countries to the eaſtward of the Cape of Good-'Hope, excluſive of all others; but about A.D.

'1698, application being made to Parliament by 'private merchants, for laying this trade open, an 'act paſſed empowering every ſubject of England, 'upon raiſing a ſum for the ſupply of government, 'to trade to theſe new parts; upon which a great 'many ſubſcribed, and were called the New Eaſt-'India Company; but the Old Company being 'maſters of all the forts on the coaſt of India, the 'New Company found it their intereſt to unite 'with them, and trade with one joint ſtock, and 'have ever ſince been ſtiled the United Eaſt-India 'Company.

'THE moſt conſiderable forts and factories and 'places of trade wherein this Company are con-'cerned, are as follows, *viz.* Mocha, or Moco; 'Aden, Macalla, Shahara, Dofar and Muſcat, in 'Arabia Felix; Baſſora, Iſphahan and Gom-'broon, in Perſia; Cambaya, Amedabad, Borotch, 'Swalley, Surat, Bombay, Dabul, Cunvar, Til-'lichery, Calicut and Anjengo, on the coaſt of 'Malabar; Fort St. David's, Connonore and Fort 'St. George, on the coaſt of Coromandel; Maſſu-'lapatam, Vizaggapatam, and Ballaſore, in the bay 'of Bengal, to the northward of theſe ſettlements. 'On the iſland of Sumutra Achin, Bambat, Cal-'loun, Ippo, Bencoolen, or Fort Marlbro' and Fort 'William at Calcutta; Hugely, Caſſimbuzar, Dac-'ca, Malda, Midnapore, Monghere, Rajahmawl, 'Chunamchoprah, Patna, Burdawan, and Chitta-'gang, in the province of Bengal; and in China 'Canton, Amoy and Chyſum.'

THIS may ſuffice to inform the reader of the origination of the Eaſt-India Company, in which quotation, I have taken the liberty to add ſome few important ſettlements made by the Engliſh ſince Mr. Mair's publication. I ſhall now return to the affairs of *Shah Aullim*.

HIS-

HISTORIANS pretty unanimouſly concur in Indoſtan's being firſt peopled by emigrants, or warlike adventurers, from Perſia: if ſo, 'tis equally probable they deſcended from the fraternities of Noah, as now it remains an uncontroverted point, that Noah and his followers firſt ſettled in theſe parts after the deluge. This is tracing them as far back as hiſtory will admit, and the oral tradition of the Bramins in India can be relied on. Thus peopled from Perſia, as already mentioned, they remained 'till Alexander the Great penetrating India with an army and fleet, after meeting with a torrent of oppoſition, but principally from *Porus*, a leading warrior in theſe parts, whom he defeated and made priſoner, he ceaſed his purſuits at the mouth of the Hydaſpes, a branch of the Indus, and made that, ſeemingly, the limitation of his conqueſts; after which, with his armament he ſailed down the Indus, and entering the ocean he returned by the way of the Perſian gulph.

AFTER this, Alexander being dead, there is a report in hiſtory, that Seleucus ſurrendered up this vaſt country to Sandracottus, for 500 elephants, which Sandracottus, it is ſaid, conquered all India, both this and the other ſide the Ganges. The accounts we have from that time 'till Auguſtus, Severus and Aurelian, who received Embaſſadors from India, from the then reigning monarchs, are obſcure and not to be relied on any more than is the account of Trajans conqueſt of theſe parts; from whence it appears, India remained inhabited by theſe different ſets of Perſians 'till invaded by the Saracens, who, it is well known, conquered the major part of it; but without being able to retain long their hold; for after their firſt expedition, Mahmud Gazni, and others made frequent incurſions into Indoſtan, plundered and carried off immenſe treaſures

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and riches, and had poſſeſſion of many principalities there, but obliged to relinquiſh them and fly, as well as the Moguls, who though they invaded this country A. D. 1300, and extended their victorious arms from it's utmoſt eaſtern to it's weſtern boundaries, and apparently made a compleat conqueſt of the whole, were obliged, after a bloody defeat, to fly before the face of the Indians and quit the premiſes. Theſe are the only events, as authenticated can be relied on, that took place in Indoſtan ſince it's firſt being peopled by the Perſians, (as before obſerved ſuppoſed to be the abſolute deſcendants of Noah) 'till about the 14th century, Tamerlane, a Mogul Tartar, with an army of horſe, conquered theſe Indoſtan domains, and put to the ſword innumerable of it's inhabitants, and aſſuming the title of Emperor, diſtributed the conquered lands amongſt his countrymen and warriors.

From Tamerlane deſcended the ſucceeding Emperors in Indoſtan, which formerly ſat on the throne uninterrupted, without any conſiderable increaſe in their territory, or inteſtine or foreign annoyance, 'till Aurengzebe, in the year 1667, mounting the throne with unheard of celerity and valour, extended, ſword in hand, his dominions to the ſouthernmoſt verge of this immenſe country, back to the foot of the mountains of Thibet, reduced the Marattas to implicit obedience, and in ſhort, compleated the conqueſt of this Empire, and lived 'till 1707.

Jehandar Shah, grandſon to Aurengzebe, after a bloody conteſt with his brothers, on a plain within about ten miles of Agra, gaining his point, returned in triumph to the capitol, and was proclaimed Emperor by his army. Jehandar Shah was ſoon maſſacred by his *Omrahs* and *Aumeers*, they making his attachment to his Empreſs an excuſe for

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the perpetration of this horrid act; and placed in his ſtead *Furrukſhir*, whom they had employed to ſtrike off his uncle's head.

FURRUKSHIR was not long reigning Emperor of Indoſtan; two of his brothers became ſo obnoxious to him by their arrogance and aſſumption, that he ordered them to be privately aſſaſſinated; but they diſcovering the plot, got him dethroned, and after impriſoning and ſtrangling him, they raiſed to the throne a grandſon of *Aurengzebe's*, a youth about ſeveenteen years of age, who not anſwering the purpoſes of his brothers, they ſoon gave him a doſe that ſent him to everlaſting ſleep, and put in his place the elder brother, who took the title of *Shah Jahan*. *Shah Jahan* was ſucceeded by *Mahommed Shah*, who giving umbrage to *Nizam Muluck*, the ſovereign of the *Decan*, and a branch of the Mogul family, this vindictive Prince, though a near relation, a *ſoubah*, ſworn ſubject, and Generaliſſimo to *Mahommed Shah*, invited ſecretly *Nadir Shah*, (formerly *Thamas Kouli Kan*) to invade the country; which ſucceeding in, *Nadir Shah*, after beating *Mahommed Shah*, and poſſeſſing himſelf of the capitol, entered into amicable treaty with the Mogul; but unhappily during the negociation, a diſturbance happening amongſt the natives on the ſpot, *Nadir Shah* being fired at by a muſket from the crowd, (though before no ways inclined to draw blood) ordered his *Cuttlebaſhes* to ſtand forth and ſpare no man they ſhould fall in with, and from about ten in the morning were to cut away 'till on the top of the *Jummah Moſque*, (as related to me by people who were then on the ſpot, and pointed out to me the very ſtreets the greateſt maſſacre happened in, which was the concerted ſignal to ſheath their ſwords,) the Peerzadahs, as uſual, with a loud voice ſhould call out *Allah! Allah! Arumdall Allah!* &c. one of the daily

invocations they make to God, and a public notice for evening prayer.

As this event is as remarkable as important, I will without breaking in much with the thread of my Introduction, relate it ſo as painted to me in lively colours by *Shake Haggabdullah*, and *Shah Nazurbeg*, two men of veracity, who had not only been preſent to the tranſaction, but the former in office, then under *Mahommed Shah*, and the latter an *Hazarce*, or commander of a thouſand of the very *Cuttlebaſh* horſe employed in this deſtructive buſineſs.

After *Nimage*, ſaid this Cuttlebaſh, our *Patcha* hearing a noiſe, mounted, and we followed him, and ordering ſilence in the *Chandny Choque*, where a riotous mob had aſſembled, and making ſigns for them to be pacific, without being regarded, and ſhot at by an Indoſtan *Burghundaſs*, with a large iron ball, he ſaid they were refractory, and wanted chaſtiſement, and concluded by ſaying, go and *bomma Shumſhere, ſofmekund waw tuxeer moph ne mequoned*, i. e. go clear the way and give them no quarter.—When ordered by *Nadir Shah*, we diſperſed ourſelves amongſt the crowd, and, *allah hufurſt!* what blood did we ſpill; within the eight hours, *koddah ab na punnah Patcha Nadir Shah Sarrah lack*, that is a lack and a quarter, or 125,000 youths and men of all deſcriptions, fell a ſacrifice to this conqueror's reſentment.

This carnage over, the *Patcha* exacted a contribution; in the completion of which many cruelties were practiſed on the unhappy inhabitants; after which he marched back to his own dominions, in 1739, with the immenſe ſum in ſpecie of two hundred and thirty-one millions ſterling, including the peacock throne, &c. ſeventy millions of which fell

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to his own ſhare; which loſs Indoſtan ſuſtained by this invaſion, beſides the loſs of 200,000 lives.

THIS was the firſt ſhock the Mogul Empire ſuffered, and put a final end to the ſway of the race of Tamerlane. *Nadir Shah* quitting Delhy, he left the Mogul in quiet poſſeſſion of all his territories to the ſouthward of the Attock; reſerving the provinces before belonging to that Sovereign to the northward of it, for himſelf; and to diminiſh the ſovereign authority, by dividing it's intereſts, prevailed on *Mahommed Shah*, to make the *ſoubah ſhips* throughout his empire, hereditary: but *Nadir Shah* had not long left Indoſtan, before the country was invaded by a numerous army of *Rouhillus* and *Patans*, who were oppoſed by the Emperor's ſon, a youth about eighteen years of age, and totally defeated. During this conteſt *Mahommed Shah* was ſtrangled by his Vizier; when the young Prince ſucceeding him by the name of *Amet Shah*, (the Emperors in Indoſtan ever aſſuming a new name and title on their aſcending the throne) offering as a reward a *munſub*, and *phill naſhan* to any one who ſhould diſcover the conſpirators againſt his father's life, they were detected and put to death: but a freſh invaſion of the *Patans* and *Marattas* conjoined, being made, *Amet Shah* was dethroned and impriſoned in *Selingur*, and *Allingheer*, father to the preſent Mogul, put on the throne by *Ghazodinkan*, the then Grand Vizier:—But *Allimgheer* tampering ſecretly with *Amud Shah*, ſovereign of Candahar and Piſhoar, in order to purchaſe his friendſhip, and a quota of troops, to cut off the thread of the obnoxious connection ſubſiſting between him and *Ghazodinkan*, his letters being intercepted by *Ghazodinkan*, a branch of the Nizam family, that long owed a grudge to their couſins the deſcendants of Tamerlane, inheriting the honors and profits of the Mogul Empire,

Empire, though then very young, a daring and enterprising genius, to revenge himself on the Emperor, and answer his sanguinary and ambitious views, engaged two *Molvies* who had just returned from a pilgrimage they had made to Mecca, to assassinate the aged *Allimgheer*, which they effected in the following manner:

ALLIMGHEER advanced in years, and though not more remarkable for his attention to fast or prayer than Mussulmans in general, yet *Fakirs* and *Hagies* and these sort of people found easier access to him than what other Emperors had been used to give; and hearing that two *Molvies*, with reverend beards, and of a respectable aspect, who had arrived from the tomb of Mahomet, and wished to pay him homage, he ordered them in his presence, who under the colour of presenting him two small Alcorans, as a *nazur*, at the same time stabbed him to the vitals with their poignards, and the retinue, by premeditated orders of young *Ghazodinkan*, threw him from the top of the terras of the palace he was then seated on to breath the fresh air in the evening, and dashed him against the pavement below; when *Ghazodinkan* assuming the regency, and aiming at the life of *Alligore*, the eldest son of the demised Emperor, amidst a tumult that this occasioned in the capitol, the *Shah Zadah*, by the assistance of *Ilelroy*, a *Maratta* Chief then at Delhy, made his escape, and crossed the Jumna with his Princess and the select part of his *Zunnanah*, what jewels he could muster, which were to a prodigious amount, and accompanied by a few Mogul Noblemen; amongst whom were Morahjahdowlah, Akborillykan, Bahahder Dowlah, and others of note, with his *Cojahs*, *Bahahdarilly Kan*, *Mecah Almas* and *Mecah Yawkoote*, incognito, flew across Anterbade, and crossed to the Commong Hills, where he met with an hospitable

table reception from the hill *Rajahs* or Potentates, in theſe parts, which he made an aſylum for ſome years; during which time his Princeſs, now Empreſs of Indoſtan, was brought to bed of *Akborſhah*, *Alligore's* third ſon, who on account of the remarkable beauty of his perſon, natural and acquired abilities, as a favorite of his father and the *Divan*, will, if ever the Mogul gets perfectly eſtabliſhed in his rights, ſucceed to the throne, 'tis preſumed.

THESE circumſtances hitherto, though of moment to the political world and all European powers to be known, have artfully been kept a ſecret by the Honourable Eaſt-India Company, and more ſo by their Governors and Counſellors, Senior Merchants and Factors abroad. Why? That by not letting tranſpire the legitimacy of Alligore's birth-right, (diſputed by *Ghazodinkin*,) though ſufficiently known, they might occaſionally have a pretext of aſſiſting any competitor for the ſovereignty of Indoſtan among the *Maratta* Chiefs againſt the right heir, ſhould *Alligore* ever eſtrange his affections from them; and even after Ragouby (appointed Regent during the minority of *Madarow*) aſſaſſinated this promiſing young Prince, the Engliſh have kept in to all intents and purpoſes with *Ragouby*, aſſiſted him laterly with troops to fight his battles, and oppoſe the *Barrow-bye*, and finally, after having attempted the reduction of *Pounah*, and the whole Decan, in order to pave the way for this *Ragouby's* acceſſion to the throne, and throw by their contrivances, the Mogul into the hands of the *Marattas*.

ALLIGORE ſome ſix or ſeven years reſided in theſe principalities above mentioned; in the interim the Engliſh growing powerful in Bengal and Madraſs, and having by this time acquired a great military fame, and aiming at an extenſion of their territorial revenue,

revenue, preſuming that under the auſpices of the Great Mogul all imaginable ſanction would be given to their proceedings, could they but induce him to fall in with their meaſures, ſent a deputation to *Alligore*, with an offer of their ſervices, by Meſſrs. Cartier and Claude Ruſſell; which *Alligore* accepting, he was conducted to Eleabas, a fortified city on the banks of the Ganges, and by them (the Engliſh) with great ſolemnity crowned King of Delhy and Indoſtan, not Emperor: the Company were pleaſed to ſay that title was redundant, and when ſpoken of by them he is only ſtiled the King, or *Shahzadah*, which implies Prince. On aſcending the throne he aſſumed the name and title of *Shah Aullim*, that is in Engliſh, the King of the world. *Rupees* were ſtruck in his name, with the above title thereon. Two battallions of *Seapoys* were allotted him for his guards, and one hundred *lack* of *rupees* per annum for his maintenance, that it might not be ſaid the *Badſhaw* wanted *doll routee*, (i. e. a current phraſe in Indoſtan, which idiomatically tranſlated, is bread to his meat) whilſt among the generous brave Engliſh *Toppe-wallas*, i. e. hat-men; but this *Shah Aullim* as ſoon ſuſpected was but an honorary ſtipend, as he did that the civilians who on various pretences frequented his court, were as much ſpies over his actions, as the *Seapoys* he had been honored with to attend him, were bars to his liberty. Nor were theſe ſuſpicions ill-founded, for his agents in their attempt to collect the taxes of the adjacent *purgunnas*, (that being the channel through which he was to come at his ſtipend) with difficulty obtained a *taſcel*, i. e. gather of land-tax for a ſix months back balance, due to the *Sircar*, that made it out in the proportion of no more than twenty-five *lacks* per annum. The Company's ſervants in India anticipated the complaints of

of *Shah Aullim* on theſe occaſions, by waiting on him with rich European preſents, which they diſtributed amongſt thoſe of his ſons that attended Court; and renewing their aſſurances of friendſhip induced him to give them grants for all the lands they had purloined from the natives, with *Jaghires* and grants for immenſe tracts more of lands in the richeſt provinces of the kingdoms of Bengal, Behar and Oriſſa, with a *Phirmaund* to collect revenue *vi et armis* throughout all theſe three extenſive diſtricts, and the liberty of ſtriking *Siccas* in his name at Calcutta, and diſtributing juſtice in their own dominions, with ſome few pretended reſtrictions, relative to the *Soubah Bullmouſin*, the Beneras Rajah and other officers and perſons of property and diſtinction it would be policy not to be too ſtrenous with at firſt ſetting off.

Fresh Surveyors, with detachments of Seapoys, were employed to ſurvey and penetrate the country, in order to find out new towns, *gonges* and *gunges*, and aſcertain, or rather extend the Company's limits.

No Prince on the throne at Delhy, and the ſovereign authority annihilated, the Princes tributory to the Mogul, viz. *Rajahs*, *Nabobs*, *Faſdars*, &c. and others, affecting independence, each one grew deſpotic in his reſpective diſtrict, exacted and collected revenue and taxes of all kinds; favoring the *Zemendars*, *Banyans* and *Bockalls*, as their avarice, intereſt or inclination guided them.

The northern provinces of Indoſtan, at this time open on the one hand to the viſits of the *Marattas*, on the pretext of collecting their *Chouty* or fifth part of the revenue granted to them out of certain portions of territory by *Aurengzebe*; and on the other by the incurſions of the *Rouhillas*, *Sicks*, and *Patans*; without enumerating the miſchief done by

by various tribes of robbers and thieves this country abounds with, viz. *Gougers*, *Gowars*, *Minnees*, *Mewattees*, *Tuggs*, and bodies of *Fakirs*; without theſe inteſtine oppreſſions, would have been ſufficient to account for the anarchy and confuſion this country at this juncture was in.

What was the conſequence? The pretended hoſpitable reception the *Toppee-wallas* had afforded *Shah Alluim* and his family, had taken wind, and the head *Zemindars*, *Sowdawgurs*, and *Shroffs*, not only alarmed for their property, but for the ſafety of their lives, from ſuch an inundation of deſpoilers that now overſpread the country, converting what of their property they could, into gold or precious ſtones, for the eaſier conveyance of it, through by ways would travel down to the ſettlements of the Engliſh *Toppe-wallas*, for protection. The Mogul had ſhown them an example, and a report was circulated amongſt the Muſſulmans, (that *Allah*, i. e. God, in the Arabic language) and amongſt the *Hindoos*, that *Bogwan*, i. e. the ſupreme God, had made choice of the tribe of *Hadgerat Eeſah*, to be an engine to redreſs their grievances.

These families of merchants and others ſwarming into the Engliſh ſettlements, amongſt whom were many monied men, the Company's ſervants made a point of receiving them in the moſt courteous manner; theſe invited others, and their ſettlements became, ſeemingly, aſylums for the rich or ruined emigrants of Indoſtan.

This migration was productive of many immediate and future advantages to the *Sircar*, for theſe men, particularly the *Banyans*, early making the Company acquainted with the pecuniary abilities of the *Riets* in the adjacent and remoter parts of their new acquired territory, pointed out to them *Gonges Gunges*, and even towns, in receſſes they had never dreamed

dreamed of, nor their ſurveyors as yet had come to the knowledge of.

THE Engliſh inveſted now with full powers from the Mogul to act in a civil, military, and judicial capacity, without control, ſaw a neceſſity for an augmentation of their Seapoys, and their European brigades, and wrote home accordingly, as well for a ſupply of civilians to fill up the vacancies of Senior Merchants, Factors and Writers, by this time diſpatched from the Preſidency at Fort William to new ſubordinates in the different parts of Bengal, Behar, and Oriſſa, and employed in the new important buſineſſes of the Mint, the Lapidaries office, the ſurvey of the revenue, and the *Catchary*; they felt a ſhortneſs of Agents for the ſorting their cloths, and for the completion of their annual inveſtments of ſalt-petre, opium, &c. as uſual, and repreſented in their general letter, that their eſtabliſhment abroad called upon all civil, military and naval auxilaries to ſupport it.

THE military reputation of the Company increaſed daily. Major Clive (ſince Lord Clive) had enhanced the idea of their valour by his conduct. He had gained the battle of Plaſſey, A. D. 1757, when the head of *Surahjahdowlah* was knocked off, and *Meerjaffierallykan*, put on the *muſnud* in his ſtead; from which epocha we may date the Company's making and unmaking Nabobs: *Jaffier Ally Kan* was afterwards depoſed, after being handſomely fleeced out of his jewellery and gold *mohars*, and *Coſſimally-kan*, a Syed of good family and a man of good natural parts and acquired abilities, made *Soubah*. Preſently fault was found with the conduct of *Coſſimally Kan*, and another *Soubah* thought of to fill up the *ſede vacante* when called upon; which coming to the ears of *Coſſimally Kan*, it provoked this new *Soubah* to take up arms againſt the Company,

and

and an army employed to conquer him and reduce him to reaſon, under the command of Major Carnac. Notwithſtanding a menacing letter this officer ſent him, when fortified within the walls of *Patma*, he ſacrificed to his reſentment a number of Engliſh gentlemen in their factory there; employing one Sombra, a German officer, to execute his orders. This was during the government of Mr. Vanſittart, who had been the means of raiſing *Coſſimally* to the *Muſnud*.——But all friendſhip being now at an end between him and the Company, he was proſcribed throughout the empire by the Engliſh, and a reward offered for his head of ten lack of *rupees*. A new *Soubah* was ſet up at Maxedabads, and many events took place between that and the famous battle of Baxar, where to end a diſpute long ſubſiſting between the Grand Vizier *Sujahdowlah*, and the Company, Hector Munro was employed againſt him, and beat him fairly in the field, and took him priſoner on his elephant, with a ſmall party of European horſe, after the battle; who, ſubdued, and in the hands of the Engliſh, was glad to enter into an amicable treaty with them.

SUJAHDOWLAH, one of the moſt voluptuous and luxuriant Princes that ever appeared in Aſia, at amity now with the Company, but jealous of their power, by degrees added to his military force an army of twenty thouſand well diſciplined *Seapoys*, and ſet afoot a large train of artillery, caſt and conducted by one Monſieur Samſon, a French officer, his *Douan* had invited into his ſervice; which artillery, was under the direction of this Commandant, and a number of Europeans, the loweſt of them paid at the rate of five rupees per day, and a number at wages from three hundred to one thouſand rupees per month.

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THE Company ſtrengthened with the additional alliance of the Grand Vizier, in the eyes of the inhabitants of Indoſtan, and having gained a permanent footing in Bengal, their ſervants began to acquire amazing and rapid fortunes; as verified in the inſtances of Lord Clive, Carnac, Munro, Johnſon, Holwell, Haſtings, Vanſittart, and others. The *Jaghire* alone of Lord Clive was near eighty thouſand pounds ſterling per annum, an hereditary eſtate ſettled on him by the Mogul; beſides upwards of two millions of ſpecie, and one hundred and fifty thouſand pounds worth of jewels and pearls.

THE means by which theſe rapid and immenſe fortunes were acquired, though too well known by this time not to be notorious to all Indoſtan, if not to America and the European world, were at firſt but ſuggeſted, until men who had been treated hard by theſe deſpotic Lords of the Eaſt, though Europeans of repute and unexceptionably connected at home, among whom was Mr. Bolts, a free merchant of Calcutta, who with others, laying open at home the illicit and unwarrantable means by which the Company's ſervants in India acquired their fortunes, and the Company's charter that had been granted them by Parliament having nigh expired, it put the Government upon making an inveſtigation into the Eaſt-India Company's affairs; the reſult of which was, that they ſhould ſurrender up their Charter at the expiration of the limited time; but the Court of Directors deſiring a ſufficient time to ſettle their affairs in, it was granted them, on condition that they paid to the King four hundred thouſand pounds ſterling per annum; which they readily aſſenting to, they carried on their buſineſs as uſual. About this time, Mr. Vanſittart was inveſted with full powers to go to India, and with a number of new nominated officers, civil and military

tary, ſailed for Bengal, but ſome diſaſter befalling the ſhip, ſhe never arrived, nor a veſtige of her, or a ſoul belonging to her heard of. This circumſtance, however unfavorable to the intereſt of the proprietors of ſtock, and Company in general, was a ſtroke of fortune that reverberated with *eclat* on the former ſtandards in India, for apprized of the meaſures Government had taken to ſecure to themſelves ſome of the great emoluments the Company ſhared before amongſt themſelves, and apprehenſive of this ſtep's being followed by a ſpeedy diſſolution of their Company's excluſive right to the India trade, (which ſuggeſtions were not a little ſtrengthened by a report having been propagated that the territorial revenue of Bengal would be inveſted in the right of the Crown,) prompted them to be the more ſtrenuous in their pecuniary purſuits, and to have recourſe to thoſe many unjuſtifiable means for the ſpeedier accompliſhment of their ends, which have ſo ſtigmatized this body of men, and diſgraced the character of the Britiſh nation.

Lord Clive, a ſtar of the firſt magnitude in the Eaſt, whoſe words became mottos' in India, and maxims eſtabliſhed laws, not only at the *Durbar* of the Company, but at the Courts of the Mogul *Sujahdowlah* and the *Soubahs*, declared in Council and openly, that all acquiſitions made under the commiſſion of any body politic, were legal, and that it was neither immoral or irreligious to (by force of arms) exact contribution, and eſtabliſh ſubordination; and that it was the nature of mankind to contend for ſuperiority and dominion; that whether this bend reſulted from the exigency of their ſituations, real or imaginary wants, it mattered not; an invincible diſpoſition to acquire wealth, honor and fame, like the fixed principles in nature that leads rational or animal beings to the propagation

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of their ſpecies, or the quenching of their thirſt, was as predominant in man,—no fault in him, but an invincible temper or inherent quality (like indiſſolubility in quickſilver) that ought to be cheriſhed, not quaſhed; and added, that the innumerable and ſucceſſive inſtances related ſince the creation, of men arriving to glory, and barbarous nations to civilization, by adopting belligerent maxims and conducting themſelves with craft and policy towards the people they had to deal with, ſufficiently demonſtrated the laws of conqueſt to be juſtifiable, as having a general tendency towards the improvement of mankind; that the ſword conquered more paſſions than ſtarched philoſophic documents, ſtudy, or ſtrenuouſneſs; adverting that by that right, and no other, did our anceſtors come to their eſtates, and that on a ſtrict ſcrutiny, we ſhould find, that the will of God and propenſity of human nature were not ſo incompatible as repreſented by Sophiſts and Theologicians.

I HAVE heard theſe, or ſentences to the like purport, repeated in company by ſome in a ſerious, and by others in an irronical manner; gentlemen who had frequently been preſent at theſe and the like his diſcourſes. Cojah Petrus, a rich Armenian at Calcutta, has told me the ſame; Jenoniah D'Ameida, a Portugueze of the ſame place, who uſed to write for him, and many others: They are like his expreſſions, and were known to be his ſentiments; which adopted by his Council and dependants, it will not be thought ſurprizing that they ſhould without heſitation execute his plans, however repugnant to the laws of humanity and ſociety, and irreconcileable with morality and religion; whilſt the main ſpring of their actions, like his Lordſhip's, were glittering independence.

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INDOSTAN LETTERS.

No. 1.

Calcutta bog-buzar, i. e. the Tyger-Market.

LOUISA ******,

Lethulier's boarding-ſchool, Weſtminſter:

YOU deſired me to write to you on my arrival in India, and promiſed in return to anſwer my letters. I ſend you this by the ſhip I took my paſſage in, now on the eve of her departure for Europe.

On our leaving the Downs, having a leading wind down channel, we ſoon cleared the land, and running between the *Azores*, i. e. the Weſtern Iſlands and the main continent of Europe, made the iſland of Madeira in about fourteen days; where, without coming to an anchor, we took on board 150 pipes of Madeira wine, (a drink highly acceptable to the Europeans in India) and on our way to the ſouthward, anchored at St. Jago, one of the Cape de Verd iſlands; where, after fitting up our empty water caſks, and taking in poultry, goats, and other refreſhments, we weighed and ſteered to the ſouth, when Teneriffe remaining in ſight 'till it's peek or vertex, which terminates in a conical point and pervades the clouds; (the whole iſland being but a baſe as it were, to this pyramid) was by a meridian obſervation of the ſun, viſible even at the diſtance of 150 nautic miles, which argued the great height of that remarkable mountain. We continued on our way to the Cape of Good-Hope, the ſouthernmoſt promontory of Africa; having croſſed the equinoxial line in the longitue of about 19 degrees weſt from the meridian of London.

You

You have learned the uſe of the globes, and muſt recollect that if London is brought under the graduated edge of the brazen meridian, and then the ſphere moved on it's axis until the Cape of Good-Hope is brought under the ſame artificial circle, that the difference of longitude between the two places can be obtained by counting the degrees contained between the two meridians; and in like manner for any other two places whatever. In croſſing the Equator, we had thunder ſqualls, calms, and heavy rains, attended with ſharp lightning, which is frequent in theſe climes; after which, falling in with the S. E. i. e. ſouth eaſt trade wind, which blows as conſtant in that quarter of the compaſs to the ſouthward of the equator, as the N. E. i. e. the north eaſt trade wind, blows to the northward of it between the two Tropics, viz. Cancer and Capricorn. We made the moſt of the wind, and doubling the Cape of Good-Hope, after very tremendous weather, which obliged us at times to lie *hull too*, with our yards and topmaſts ſtruck, and lower yards at portland, in a mountainous ſea; and at other times to ſcud before menacing waves for life and death, under a cloſe reefed main-topſail laſh'd down to the cap of the maſt, thinking this the ſafeſt to ſcud under, as the loftieſt ſail that could be carried, and moſt out of the reach of our briny ſtern-chaſers, the bellowing foaming billows that followed our ſhip, and every ſucceſſive ſurge menaced our ſtern. In this dangerous and boiſterous ſeaſon of the year (it being the winter of this part of the globe) hawling up to the northward, to uſe a ſea phraſe, we entered the Moſambique channel; (which caſt your eye on a map of the world, you will find lies between the iſland of Madagaſcar, which is 1000 miles in length, and the main continent of Africa) within the courſe of a week we anchored at Joanna, one of

the Comora Iſlands (in ſight of the above mentioned iſland of Madagaſcar.) This Comora is a ſmall iſland, but of a beautiful appearance, viewed from the ſea; it riſing all round with an eaſy aſcent from the beach, in little ſwelling hills projecting out from the main body of the mountain, of which the bulk of the iſland is ſeemingly compoſed. This mountain, and it's hills and intermediate vallies, are covered with trees and verdure, which produce dates, lemons, limes, and tropical fruits in general; fronting the little bay where the ſhips lie at anchor is the watering place, which is a natural receiver of fine ſweet water, precipitated from the top of the iſland down a channel formed by the celerity of the ſtream, which running in a ſerpentine direction through the buſhes and vallies, has a pleaſing effect that cannot but attract the ſight. About one third of a mile from this watering place, is a compact little village, compoſed of two ſmall narrow ſtreets that run parallel to each other about two hundred yards in length; it's houſes are ſmall, and neatly built with ſtone and cement, and was the work of the noted Avery, the pirate, and his people, who made this iſland their principal rendezvous. This place is remarkable (as are all the Comora iſlands, likewiſe Madagaſcar) for a breed of bats, or flying ſquirrels, the colour of foxes, as big as cats in general, and as full of hair and fur as weaſels; as well as mococks and mungooſes, animals in make like greyhounds, but no bigger in their bodies than a large cat, with long buſhy tails, which are both held in eſtimation in India and Europe, particularly the mococks, which are the colour of dark ſables, but covered with a thick fur. Theſe animals the ladies in Europe affect ſuch fondneſs for, that they frequently permit them to wrap their ſoft buſhy tails round their necks, and repoſe

with their heads on their boſoms. This iſland alſo abounds with a race of ſmall bulls and cows, about the ſize of yearlings, which are very fleſhy and fat; they have a hunch on their ſhoulders, and little horns, very ſharp, but no longer than a man's thumb.

At this iſland we watered and refreſhed, and then proceeded through the Maldavia Iſlands for Bengal, after which making in our way, the Iſland of Ceylon, (famous for it's cinnamon, the ſmell of which was very perceptible in the neighbourhood of the land) we entered the Bay of Bengal, and in about forty-eight hours diſcovered the high land of Ballaſore, when taking a pilot on board that had been looking out for the Europe ſhips, we ſtood on for the mouth of the river Hugely, a branch of the Great Ganges, a very critical navigation, the mouth of this river being frontiered with ſands, ſome of which ſhift, and are equally blocked up with ſwampy iſlands, infeſted with tygers of an enormous ſize, and aligators, alſo large ſerpents. The pilot had not been long on board before (whether through his obſtinacy or the precipitancy of the Captain) the ſhip ſhallowing her water, ſhe ſtruck on the tail of the eaſtern brace, one of the moſt dangerous ſands in that vicinity, and had very nigh been loſt; but eſcaping this danger, ſhe anchored at Ingillee the latter part of July, when, with the ladies we had on board, ſome Company's ſervants, and other paſſengers, I proceeded in a *budgero* to Calcutta.

This firſt part of my letter is written in a ſtile calculated for the peruſal of a ſeafaring gentleman apparently, rather than that of a young lady; but as intended for your amuſement and information, as introductory to the letters to come, I have hazarded it's inſertion.

No. 2.

No. 2.

To the same.

In the Old Fort, Calcutta.

ON our arrival at Calcutta, which was the day following, we paſſed by Fort-William, and the *budgero* gaining the front of the ſettlement, ſhe hawled into a landing called Bibby-Watts, i. e. the Woman Watt's landing, where a number of boats, different in their conſtruction from any I had ſeen before,—*burrs*, *dinghees*, *budgeros*, and Moor *punkys*, added to the exotic appearance of the inhabitants aſſembled in innumerable bodies, (Moors, *Gentoos*, Armenians, *Callo-fringhees*, or Country-born Chriſtians,) men, women and children, all in general remarkably well dreſſed, particularly in the ſtile of the country, who I was informed were of the Gentoo tribes, attracted my attention, as well that of the reſt of the paſſengers; and being given to underſtand that ſomething extraordinary was to be tranſacted on or about the ſpot we had come to at, being as well ſituated in the varandos of the *budgero* as we could wiſh, we waited the event of theſe novel preparations, and in the interim through the means of the *mangy*, under whoſe direction the boat was, who ſpoke Engliſh in common tollerably well, I informed myſelf which were the different caſts or tribes amongſt this numerous aſſemblage of people; who pointed them out to me much to my ſatisfaction, ſaying, that is a *Muſſulman*,—that is a Hindoo,—this a *Callo-fringhee*,—that an Armenian. This man, from his childhood employed by Europeans, had acquired a conſiderable ſhare of experience in polemical matters, and amongſt other things could tell us, that though the *Toppe-wallées* governed Bengal and all the coaſt of India, and did

as they pleaſed with the *Badſhaws* and *Nabobs*, there were Moor men enough, ſtanch *Shakes*, *Syeds*, *Moguls* and *Patans*, without the *Gentoos*, to bury them all alive in a day, with but a handful of ſand each, had they but courage; for that there were, according to the account of the Bramins, who knew the number of the inhabitants, ten millions of Muſſulmans in Indoſtan, and not half one hundred thouſand Toppe-wallees, including the *Callo-fringhees* in all; but, added the *Mangy*, ſo immenſe a number of *Hindoos*, that were they not as timid as women, without any other weapons than even *bamboos* in their hands, they could drive both Mahometans and *Fringhees* out of the country; for that there were ten Hindoos for one Muſſulman, which made an hundred million of *Gentoos* in all, but the *Hindoos* are infidels and idolaters, ſays this man, and *Pyrumbur* will not let them rule over true believers, though he permits the *Toppe-wallees* to be a ſcourge to them for a time. This and other diſcourſe he held us while I was ſurveying the crowd, and paying attention to their dreſſes, which I ſhall in their proper place deſcribe minutely. The *Moors* and *Gentoos* dreſs alike, with *jammers* and *turbans* of fine white muſlin or callico, and ſaſhes of the ſame, and *cryſſis* ſtuck into their ſaſhes, which are bound tight around their waiſts, and have edges to them of gold fringe, &c. Theſe *jammers* are gowns made much like the women's in America or Europe, but with long ſleeves that taper as they come down to the wriſts, and are ſo long in general, both before and behind, that when walking the ſtreets they are under the neceſſity of gathering up a bunch in one hand, to keep the border from being trampled under foot: theſe *jammers* are bound with ſilk, mode or ribband, or elſe with a binding of the ſame ſtuff they are made of. Their turbans are traverſed chequerwiſe,

wife, and the ends of ſome of them a foot and others a ſpan deep, which they take care to let come out at the top, by way of ornament. Over this turban frequently is tied obliquely to the forehead, a handſome ſhawl, handkerchief, or a ſmall ſilk or ſattin ſaſh, and fringed with gold or ſilver. The Moors eſteeming themſelves Seapoys, wear ſwords on all occaſions, and when in *ſawawry*, or on a viſit, carry in their hands ſhields made of Rhinoceros or wild Buffalo's hide, thick enough to fend off the blow of a ſcymitar, but not an arrow or muſket ball. The *Gentoos* go equally armed, but none but *Rajahpoots*, whoſe buſineſs it is to fight, and *Bramins* of diſtinction amongſt them, wear any other arms than a *Chury* or *Chryſs*, except on particular occaſions, as, for inſtance, on celebration of their nuptials, or the feſtivals held amongſt themſelves, when the addition of the ſword and ſhield take place, though a mere matter of parade. Theſe two caſts of people made up the aſſembled crowd, excepting a few Armenians and *Callo-fringheees* that were intermixed with them, commonly called Portugueze, of which latter there are a great number in Bengal, and in all the European ſettlements in India. The Armenians are a fair complexioned people, and dreſs much like the *Moors* and *Gentoos*, except their caps, which they wear inſtead of turbans, which are moſtly made of black velvet, or broad cloth. The Portugueze or *Callo-fringhees* dreſs exactly like the Europeans, and being as remarkable for their vanity as their ſuperſtitious attachment to the papiſt religion, endeavour to envy each other in finery and equipage. The *Gentoo* women and girls from all the neighbouring parts had likewiſe gathered together on this occaſion, and were mixed with the multitude, but few or no Moor women were to be ſeen, except ſome of inferior ſtamp; the females amongſt the

Mahometans in India, like the women belonging to the Turks in Aſia and Europe, not expoſing themſelves to public view, nor going out without being compleatly covered from head to foot with a veil. Theſe *Gentoo* women in general are dreſſed in a muſlin or callico *pizwawge*, reſembling the gown I have deſcribed the men wear, which I ſhall be more particular in the account of hereafter; under this *pizwawge* they wear an upper and under ſkirt, the upper one ſome brilliant colour and the under one fine linen: they wear no ſhoes, but go barefoot through the ſtreets, except the Ranahs, i. e. wives and daughters of Rajahs, and Hindoo ladies of the firſt rank, who keep themſelves as hidden as the Moor women from the ſight of men. Over the *pizwawge* they wear a *lungah*, and over that a *deputah*; the *lungah* is to cover them when they are bathing and the *deputah* is their veil, both which they throw over them in a careleſs manner, but will occaſionally peep out from under their veils, and diſcover their faces as they paſs through the ſtreets, or remain ſtanding in a crowd. The palms of their hands and the ſoles of their feet are tinged with *mindy*, as likewiſe their finger and toe-nails, which being a beautiful pink colour ſhews to no diſadvantage. They wear rings in their right noſtrils and the middle ſtnip of their noſes; the rings they carry in their noſtrils are frequently the diameter of a dollar, and ſometimes not exceeding that of a piſtareen, which always have two precious ſtones, ſaphires, rubies or amethyſts, with pearls between the two jewels ſuſpended, and the ſame to the rings that are reeved through the ſnip of their noſes, which are leſs than the noſtril rings, being ſo contrived as only to admit the jewels ſuſpended thereto to come down to the upper-lip.—We had not long amuſed ourſelves with contemplating

ing this crowd, when the ſun ſetting below the horizon of a beautiful ſerene ſky, I was ſtruck with the ſplendid and ſudden appearance of ſome thouſand little pagodas, or Indian temples of different magnitudes and proportions, (all of them painted and gilded, from three to ſix feet in height, with their reſpective porticos, galleries, balluſtrades, turrets, domes and ſpires,) launched from the ſtrand; and numbers of pleaſure boats in different parts of the river, on flat boards of ſufficient bearings to float them; which illuminated with little gilded tapers within ſide and without, reflecting on and ſhining through caſements of tranſparent iſinglaſs, exhibited in a very advantageous light the images that were fixed on pedeſtals in the centre of theſe edifices: ſome of *Bramin* bulls, and peacocks with their tails expanded, and others of *Jagarnaut* and *Chriſtnou Swamy*, and different idols worſhipped by theſe deluded uninformed people. Theſe glittering temples had no ſooner been launched, than a report as ſmart and as loud as muſketoons, like a feu-de-joye or ſtreet firing, was heard from all quarters. They were a number of Chineſe crackers, diſcharged from the hands of boys, dreſſed, painted and decorated with jewels, on the occaſion; the boys in theſe parts wearing necklaces and earrings, with rings in their noſes like the women; and even men, when full dreſſed, will never appear without them. Theſe crackers are neatly made up and bound tight with ſmall wires, cat-gut and Indian weed, and filled with ſtrong double fortified elaſtic powder; thus artfully confined though the interior tube that contains the powder, will be no bigger than a large porcupine quill: on being fired they make an incredible loud report.

This ſcene was novel and pleaſing enough to have attended to awhile, but the turning of the tide againſt

againſt a breeze of wind that began to increaſe, ſoon overſet this fragile navigation, extinguiſhed the luminaries of theſe little floating temples, and immerged in the ſtream theſe various Indoſtan deities, amidſt the repeated ſhouts and acclamations of the Gentoo tribes on the river and adjacent ſhores, and compleated what the Europeans in Bengal call drowning Jagernaut: this day happening to be the celebration of an annual feſtival held in commemoration of that Pagan divinity, who by the *Gentoos* is looked upon as a mediator between *Bogwau* and man.

No. 3.

To the same.

From Barnagar, a ſmall Dutch Settlement, near Calcutta.

JAGERNAUT drowned, as I wrote you by the laſt year's ſhipping, the different equipages by this time brought down to the landing for conveying we new-comers to our reſpective connections, *viz.* phætons, chariots and palanquins, in diſembarking we were ſelecitated on our arrival by ſome gentlemen on the ſpot, the ladies handed into carriages and drove to the government (it being an invariable rule for every gentlewoman who is ſent from Europe to viſit the Governor firſt) who never parts with her 'till he delivers her into ſafe hands, and ſees her honorably accommodated. Theſe ladies, daughters to gentlemen of narrow fortunes, with the conſent of their friends, annually, ſome two or three in a ſhip, go to India, where having nobody on the ſpot to ſupercede them, they in a ſhort time make a con-

a conqueſt of ſome gentleman or other, advanced in the Company's ſervice; for no one leſs than a factor dare preſume to think of an European lady, nor will the Governor (without whoſe conſent they cannot be married) admit of ſuch a match, which reſtrictions ſecures to them conſiderable ſettlements, and I believe an inſtance never was known for a young maiden of ſpotleſs character not making a brilliant fortune by a trip to Bengal. The women bowled off in their ſuperb carriages; a palanquin that had been ſent for me by Mr. Lambert, a ſenior merchant in the Company's ſervice, I ſtepped into it, and was ſhewn how to fix myſelf without endangering it's tilting, and orders given in a language that I did not underſtand, (as I was afterwards informed) to carry me to the houſe of a Mr. Middleton, a gentleman then in Council at Calcutta. As this vehicle is not only a ſhining but a neceſſary equipage in India, I will give you a ſhort deſcription of it, and refer you to my gloſſary for further particulars. A *palanquin* may with great propriety be called a valant couch; it is oblong in it's make, and beſpread with mattraſſes, and a ſilk or ſattin covering called an *epinjary*, that is ſpread over the arch of the *bamboo*, to keep out the dew and ſun beams, and is carried by four men at a time on a thick *bamboo*, that forms an arch over the main body of the *palanquin*, and runs projecting out ſome ſix feet before, and about four feet behind; two of the men keeping forward and the other two in the rear. Theſe *bamboos* have their ends neatly covered with leather, and the arches of them with velvet or broad-cloth. Three handſome taſſels hang under the *bamboo*, the body of the middle one as big as an oſtrich egg, and the taſſels in general a couple of ſpans deep. Theſe are of uſe and ornament both, for bobbing this way and that way with the motion

of the *palanquin*, they ſerve to keep off the flies and muſquitoes, with which this country abounds. At the but end of the fore part of the *bamboo* is fixed in caſt metal, gold, ſilver or braſs, the head and claws of a dragon, a griffin, or crocodile; and at the other end of the *bamboo*, the tail and poſterior parts of the ſame animal that is fixed in the front: and a palanquin being a mark of honor and diſtinction in Indoſtan, no ſubject preſumes to mount one, except authorized by the Mogul himſelf, a *Soubah*, *Nabob* or *Rajah*; which right remains hereditay, or only during office or life, at the will of the Prince who confered it.——Thus fixed in my *palanquin*, though in a very inexpert manner, as it then ſtood on it's four feet on the ground, the ſides of it were held by two men, whilſt the bearers ſtooped down and dexterouſly raiſed it up by clapping the ends of the *bamboo* under their ſhoulders, when they ſet off in a dog trot, at a rapid rate, ſinging out as they jogged along, in a plaintive tone, a kind of a ſong I did not underſtand. In this way I was conveyed to the houſe of my friend, where the *palanquin* was ſet down, and I conducted up ſtairs and received by Mr. Middleton, who introduced me to his acquaintance, and gave orders for a *notch*, and as we paſſed up and down the varando, amongſt other things told me that he would furniſh me with a *banyan*, when his *carrany* called me aſide to inform me there were ſent into an apartment deſtined for me, two bags of *rupees*; upon which I took the hint, and with this *carrany* withdrew, who counted out to me two thouſand *rupees*,—Idepoſited them in my eſcrutoire, which was no ſooner done, than a fat ſhort man of a ſtraw coloured complexion, accompanied by his ſon, a boy about twelve years of age, accoſted me: this man was a *Gentoo*, of the *bramin* caſt, and a ſubſtantial *banyan*. They both were richly dreſſed

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in the ſtile of the country, and had all the appearance of people of credit. The ſubject they waited on me was that of my employing the father as my *banyan*; who producing a line from my friend, I accepted of his offer, with a *nazar* he preſented me, conſiſting of five gold *mohars* and three *ſicca rupees*, which was looked upon, I was informed, as an indication of an agreement; when they paid their compliments by meeting their right hands with their foreheads, and letting them fall in a graceful manner while they bowed their bodies, (which is called making a *ſallam*)—after this they retired, and left me to my private cogitations. My friend returning after ſupper, we went into a large ſaloon, when a company of women, about fifteen in number, advanced as it were, in the front of a theatre, by *typhas*, i.e. ſets, with their *bajana wallas*, and paid their compliments by *ſallaming* us in the manner the *banyan* and his ſon *ſallamed* me; the women varying nothing in this particular from the men, in Indoſtan. This done, they ſeated themſelves croſs-legged on the carpet, according to the cuſtom of all Aſiatics, when a *typha*, which always conſiſts of three of theſe dancing girls, ſang a ſong (much in vogue then, and accompanied it by the *ſerindas*, to the ſatisfaction of the audience) that was called the fate of the *Soubah Serajahdowlah*, which name introduced in the chorus occaſionally, ended every verſe; when beatle was brought in to entertain them.

No. 4.

LADY CAROLINE *********,

Weſtminſter.

Dumdum Garden, Calcutta.

MADAM,

THE girls to whom I have hitherto addreſſed myſelf from India, correſpond with each other, and will be as proud to tranſmit you my letters as I am to underſtand by yours that you wiſhed for a peruſal of them: in future, it will be improbable I ſhould neglect writing to you the firſt. Your letter I have made the frontiſpiece to my Europe miſcellanies. The letters antecedent to this, ſhould ere now, by the ſteps I am informed you had taken, have fallen into your hands. The company ſeated, (as I wrote Louiſa ******'s ſiſter in my laſt letter) afforded me an opportunity of contemplating their perſons and examining their dreſs, both which I ſhall give you a ſketch of in my letters to the ladies I correſpond with in general.

The dreſſes of theſe females, cloſely copied from the faſhions of the Seraglios, which are conſtant ſtandards for the women in thoſe parts to regulate themſelves by in that important article of dreſs and the decoration of their perſons; it being to be remarked that theſe Aſiatics are as tenacious in the points of dreſs, and any ſignificant addition or diminution might be made thereunto by a predominant party of belles in the Seraglio of the Mogul, Vizier or *Soubah*, as ever a ſet of the firſt rank ladies that ever formed a route in London or Paris. To return from which digreſſion, the Indoſtan women wear ſhifts which differ but little in make from thoſe of the European women, and under their

ſkirts

ſkirts, which are always made of tiſſue or a brilliant coloured ſilk or ſattin, ſet off with a deep gold or ſilver fringe below, and as often embroidered with ſprigs of the ſame, they wear likewiſe a white linen petticoat, and within that ſtriped ſilk drawers, drawn round the waiſt with ſilk, knit, or wove bandages, and in the ſame manner drawn tight round the ancles of their legs; whilſt the *Gentoo* women, who differ from the other Indoſtan women in this particlar, diſpenſe with theſe drawers and wear an extraordinary ſkirt in their ſtead. Over the dreſs above deſcribed goes the *pizwawge*, a robe or gown made in the following manner; two pieces of muſlin are laid flat on each other like ſheets of writing paper in a quire, then doubled from the middle, which making them fourfold adds to the ſtrength of them, and makes the whole better calculated for the lower part of the *pizwawge*, which forms a ſkirt with a handſome gold border to it of about a ſpan deep all round; theſe pieces of muſlin being finiſhed off in that manner while fabricating on the bamboo ſtands, are made of ſuch lengths as to admit occaſionally their being converted into *pizwawgee*'s, in the making of which by doubling the lengths together, it may eaſily be conceived how the ends of theſe pieces by making them meet, may be contrived to anſwer the purpoſes of a border to the lower part of the *pizwawge*, which the *Zundirjees*, i. e. the women taylors, pay particular attention to, as well as the length of the train of the *pizwawgees*, in the making of which, with the Indoſtan ladies they muſt never be infringed on. In order to accompliſh this, the *Zundirjees* employed for that purpoſe in meaſuring the lady the dreſs is intended for, begin by taking her circumference from juſt below her ſhoulder-blades, and that part of the body that coincides with them, not from the ſmall of the back above

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the hips, according to the cuſtom of the American and European ladies. This done, they cut off the upper part of the folded muſlins and lay them apart for the body or veſt of the robe, whilſt the part that forms the ſkirt is drawn up into a convenient number of gatherings; then they adjuſt the body, and fix it to the ſkirt to their liking, making the hind part terminate in a train as propoſed, while the fore part but barely meeting the floor has loops to raiſe it and keep it from incumbering the feet, by contriving it ſo as to admit of the border's juſt reaching the inſtep; which contraction of the robe diſcovering (as the party walks or dances) the glittering annulets, and large hoop rings incruſted with pearls and gems of different colours with which her toes, ancles and legs (if a female of the leaſt pretenſions) will be in a manner incaſed, whilſt her train flowing behind ſweeping the rich Perſian carpet ſhe treads on, exhibits to great advantage the gracefulneſs of the perſon, and elegance of the dreſs.

I am addreſſing myſelf to ladies, or I ſhould perhaps be leſs diffuſive on a ſubject that by the other ſex might be thought effeminate; in future I will be leſs minute, but beg leave to finiſh the detail of an Indoſtan lady's attire in the manner I have began.

I will now write in the plural number, and not confine myſelf to the dreſſes of the women in queſtion, their diſpoſition and manners in particular, but treat of them in general.

The ſleeves of Indoſtan ladies robes are fixed to their *pizwawgees* much in the ſame manner the American or European women's gowns are, only theſe growing narrower by degrees are made to extend to about half a yard, when pulled out, beyond their finger ends, that by that contrivance a number of muſlin ringlets may be made to form a pretty cuff when ſhoved up above the wriſt, without concealing the

the gold rings and bracelets adorned with precious ſtones that they wear night and day on their fingers and wriſts. Theſe ſleeves being ſtrait, to render them more convenient for the motion of their arms, are ſlit at the elbows; and the edge of that aperture worked round in needle-work, like the edge of a Dreſden wriſtband. They wear neither tippets nor handkerchiefs over their necks and ſhoulders, but have a half veſt or bodice of muſlin, edged with ſmall rubies, ſapphires, emeralds, or pearls, if able to purchaſe them; if not, a narrow binding of ſilk anſwers the purpoſe; which demi veſt they ſlip under their ſhifts and clap over their breaſts: theſe demi veſts are called *chatty bunds*, and are made exactly to fit, and being diaphanous, the women ſolely depend on the contexture of their veils for the concealmeut of their charms, which, as one of the moſt indiſpenſable parts of an Indoſtan female's dreſs, you muſt not be ſurprized ſhould I be rather lengthy in the deſcription of it in my next.

No. 5.

To the same.

On board my budgero, off Fort-William.

THESE veils I had promiſed you a deſcription of are about three ells long, and an ell and one quarter wide, of an azure, purple, pink, green, ſcarlet, or any fancy colour whatever; and though of an extreme fine manufactured muſlin, are ſo thick as not to be tranſparent but from within ſide: they have all gold or ſilver edges to them of about four fingers wide, and the ends terminate like the ends of the ſaſhes or bottoms of their *pizwawgees*, in a deep

deep gold or ſilver border, and as one of the moſt eſſential appendages of an oriental lady's dreſs, as I have already intimated, are by them manouver'd and handled with as inexplicable art and inimitable eaſe and oconomy: whether when travelling in their *palanquins*, *doolies* or hackerries abroad, or when walking in their varandoes, ſaloons or gardens at home, or ſitting down in public, or tête à tête in private with a friend, it matters not, the veil muſt be introduced. When in a ſtate of real or ſeeming deſpondence, the head reclined on the arm inwrapt in one end of the veil, a part of the face will be diſcoverable under the ſhining border of the other end or golden edges, with the marks of anxiety or care depicted thereon. At funerals the veil the diſconſolate mother, ſiſter or relict, throws over her in ſuch a manner as to cover the whole body from head to foot except her hands, which wringing with a bunch of it retain'd in them, ſhe ſuddenly will convert into a *ramol* to abſorb the tears dropping from her eyes. When exaſperated by the perfidy or frowns of a lover, the veil, by the irritated dame who wears it, will be diſtended, then twiſted firſt one way and then another, and the ends converted into taſſels to beat time to the ſighs and ſobs intervening her ejaculations. When overjoyed at the unexpected ſight of a long abſented friend, parent, huſband or lover, (contracted to in marriage perhaps, and given over for loſt) the veil then, like wings, will be expanded at the full extent of the hands and arms, whilſt the enraptured female with rapidity and obvious ſolicitude, will fly to the embraces of the welcome and unexpected gueſt; and if a parent or huſband, fall down at their feet and wipe them therewith. The veil in ſhort, under all circumſtances of the mind or body, whether fortuitous or premeditated, exigent or voluntary, comes of uſe in courſe; and without

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it, with ſatisfaction and decorum, nothing trivial or important can be effected. I have deſcribed in my letter, No. 2, to your neighbour Louiſa ******, the necklaces, bracelets and annulets they wear on their wriſts and ancles; which but differ more or leſs from each other in mode or value, in proportion to the circumſtances and taſte of the women who wear them; which rings, &c. except the thumb ring wore by women of all degrees in Indoſtan, are all the trinkets that at preſent occur to me, belonging to them. The thumb ring is about the ſize of a common ſignet, of the diameter of a quarter of a dollar, and worn on the right thumb; the ſurface of it is a bright ſpeculum of plain poliſhed ſteel, or a bit of good looking-glaſs, ſet in a ſocket of gold, environed with little gems. They are cut out into ovals, perfect circles, or polygons, at the pleaſure of the goldſmith or female it is intended for. This little mirror ſerves the women to adjuſt their hair by, pencil their eye-brows, accommodate to their fancy their veils, or contemplate their faces in, and anſwers the purpoſe both of portable mirrors and ornaments. There remains nothing now but the ſaſh and the ſlippers to compleat the inventory of the decorations and dreſs of an Indoſtan female: The ſaſh differs in nothing from the veil but in colour, (which is always by way of contraſt different) and in dimenſions, it being in general about one third leſs than the veil. Theſe ſaſhes they wear partly round their waiſts and partly round their bodies, as fancy or chance at times decides, with frequently one end of them circumflected round an arm, whilſt the other end careleſsly playing about will reach down to the bottom of their *pizwawgees*, and fall in with the border before or behind. Their ſlippers are either ſilk, velvet or red leather, and ornamented with ſpangles, and often with gems. They likewiſe

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uſe *ramols*, i. e. handkerchiefs, and are in as perpetual want of them, it may be ſuppoſed, in a climate ſituate under one of the tropics, but do not convert the one and the ſame handkerchief to all the menial purpoſes Europeans do theirs, for their ſtomachs would revolt at the idea of wiping their faces with the ſame *ramol* they had wiped their noſes with; which is not the only inſtance of the delicacy of theſe women, for they are the epitome of neatneſs in body and apparel: in every other reſpect, bathing themſelves, and having their hair comb'd out and cleanſed, their bodies and clothes perfumed, their ears picked, and their nails pared at the ſame time, daily, not neglecting their teeth every morning; to preſerve which and keep clean they rub with *munjun*, (a ſearching powder in uſe in thoſe parts) and once a month apply *mindy* to their fingers, toe-nails, palms of their hands, and ſoles of their feet, which keeps them cool, and gives them a beautiful crimſon tinge. [See in gloſſary further deſcribed.]

In this manner do the women in Indoſtan dreſs and adorn themſelves, with little if any variation in thoſe particulars, except in the different degrees of magnificence of their cloathing and intrinſic value of the auxiliary decorations.

No. 6.

To the same.

AFTER having been diffuſive in the deſcription of Indoſtan women's dreſſes, it would be remiſſneſs in the extreme to neglect their perſons; but wiſhing to deduce my criterions from particular obſervation rather than from inſtances, when diſcriminating the manners and habits of a nation, I ſhall now, as I am about

about depicting the ſcene that was repreſented to me the evening I arrived in Calcutta, by confining my animadverſions to the characters alluded to, in a diſplay intended to diſcriminate only a particular caſt or tribe, avoid including in the portrait the main body of the people, or rather the females belonging to them; reſerving for a more favorable opportunity ſuch a general deliniation.

Theſe women, amongſt others, falling into the hands of *Abdally*, (ſtiled *Amud Shah*) by the fate of war, or paid him as an equivalent at different times, after a conſiderable devaſtation he had made with his army in Sarmarcand, Bochara, Circaſſia, and the confines of Perſia, in different parties were ſent to *Shah Aullim*, and *Sarahjahdowlah*, as preſents, in expectation, 'tis ſuppoſed, of adequate returns: after which tranſlation of theſe females, *Sarahjahdowlah*'s army being totally defeated at the battle of Buxar, and diſperſed, amongſt other fugitives of his camp, theſe women having loſt their lord and maſter, and flying to *Shah Aullim* for protection, and meeting there their former acquaintance, a connection cemented under remarkable circumſtances, ſympathizing with each other's lot, in pathetic terms, in the hearing of *Shah Aullim*, the Emperor ſtruck with the viciſſitudes of their fortunes, they expreſſing a deſire to live together, he ordered all thoſe ladies in his preſence by whom he had had no children, who were either related to, or had been formerly connected with this new arrived party; when, on their making their appearance, he not only gave the whole of them the choice of continuing with him in his Seraglio, or ſeeking their fortunes elſewhere, but on their prefering the latter, diſmiſſed them with handſome preſents, and gave them the appellation of *Shahzadees*, at the ſame time: they have retained that title everſince, and been reſpected accordingly,

and

and by ſuch Indoſtan families of the firſt rank, as knew their hiſtory, invited to and called upon to improve by their converſation and manners, their young male children and female connections, and even looked upon as precedents for behavior in the precincts of the *Zunnannahs* of princes, or before whatever company they happened to perform, or be invited to viſit; which ſhould not be thought ſurprizing when women of this deſcription, or leſs pretenſions, are frequently called upon by both *Mahometans* and *Gentoos*, on ſimilar occaſions, to improve their children; which the experience of ages has demonſtrated to be the moſt ſucceſsful mode of weaning children from their puerile habits, for by conquering in them early an aukward baſhfulneſs natural to ſome, or a too prompt diſpoſition to be forward and refractory, as peculiar to others: by their being frequently compelled to dreſs, and approach their parents and relations with a chearful alacrity and reſpect, before a company from abroad, introduced for their edification and amuſement, they as inſenſibly fall into a happy mediocrity of behavior, between downright effrontery and what the French call *la mauvaiſe honte*; for however inconſiſtent with our ideas of delicacy and decorum, and incompatible with the rigidity of European documents, the countenance given to women of this ſtamp in Indoſtan may appear to be, their acting but according to the dictates of their conſciences and the tenets of their reſpective religions, in a country where polygamy is lawful, and a plurality of female companions (ladies not conjoined by matrimonial bands) equally admiſſible; which gives a ſanction to their proceedings, that amongſt *Gentoos* and *Mahometans* not only exempts them from any imputation of immorality or irreligion, but renders them unexceptionable in the eyes of the main body of the people. It muſt

not

not be thought ſurprizing, that from their infancy taught with care by able hands to dance, to walk, to ſit down, and riſe up in the eaſieſt and moſt graceful attitudes the body will admit; inſtructed equally in fine needle-work, and reading and writing the Perſian language, as well as vocal and inſtrumental muſic, by people declared enemies to all ſpecies of inebriety and intemperance or illiberal converſation, and as remarkable for their rigid obſervance of holy feaſts and faſts, their punctuality in their daily devotions and aptitude to give alms, from whom they imbibed theſe principles; were trained up and taught to know that their maintenance would depend ſolely on their perſonal accompliſhments, the elegance of their dreſs and delicacy of manners and deportment, ſhould be introduced occoſionally as precedents for behavior, and held in eſtimation throughout an empire like Indoſtan.

The women in queſtion, with reſpect to their perſons, ſprang from parents of one colour and ſect, though of different nations; an obvious ſimilarity of phyſiognomy, manners and make, were diſcoverable throughout the whole ſet; and to be concluſive, had I them to claſs as the Poets have claſſed the graces, (Juno, Pallas and Venus) I ſhould have divided them into three parts, and ſtiled them Junos, Pallaſſes, and Venuſes; for they equalled theſe hiſtoric Goddeſſes in ſtature, proportion and attitude, and in my eye inheriting the prevailing characteriſtics of beauty, viz. an harmony of features and limbs, black ſparkling eyes, long fine hair, and complexions and ſkins as clear as amber, and a ſhade lighter than wheaten ſtraw, they might, except American and Engliſh women, vie with the whole globe in theſe particulars, and be ſtiled beauties of the ſuperlative degree. I could have wiſhed this Aſiatic *belle aſſemblee*, had been conſtituted of characters leſs exceptionable

ceptionable in the opinion of more refined nations in the European or American world, particularly thoſe of the ladies; but as a deſcription of ſuch remarkable caſts of women, and of the means by which they maintain themſelves in ſplendor, cannot but tend to chracteriſe the voluptuous *Baſſas*, *Nabobs* and *Rajahs*, and licentious European Agents in theſe parts, on whoſe favors theſe females and all of the like ſtamp are dependent for a livelihood, and will demonſtrate equally to what a degree the prejudices of education, and religion founded on falſe principles, and irreconcilable with theology and morality, will influence the human mind, and biaſs a bigotted people, I could not but include the above matters in the ſeries of my letters.

No. 7.

To the same.

Calcutta.

THE *beatle* brought in to regale this company with, as I wrote you in No. 4, was handed round for them to partake of, and then laid before them with the *pondon*, when they began to expatiate upon the goodneſs and quality of the leaf, and other of it's conſtituent parts, as the gentlemen around informed me, and by their looks and actions I judged was the caſe, which were ſo ſignificant and expreſſive that without ſpeech even were obvious indications of their minds.

Theſe people, fond to exceſs of this *beatle*, which from their infancy they had been taught to chew like tobacco chewers, ſnuff-takers, or dram-drinkers amongſt the Chriſtians, among whom a long uſe of the

the intoxicating weed, ſpirituous liquors and cephalic fumes renders habitual, the ſudden deprivation of goes as hard with, as the gratification of their depraved appetites therewith muſt be pleaſing. Theſe Indoſtan women ſeem to expect their *pan ſapyary* (the expreſſion for *beatle* in the Indoſtan language) as much as theſe dram-drinkers, tobacco-chewers, and ſnuff-takers do their inebriating potions, and could probably as ill diſpenſe with their daily auxilaries as theſe folks above hinted at, could paſs withont theirs, but with this material difference in favor of the one ſubſtitute and againſt the uſe of the other, that *beatle* ſweetens the breath, preſerves the teeth, is aromatic in it's ſmell and balſamic in it's taſte, without having any diſagreeable medicinal twang, and by the addition or the dimunition of the cochineal and *chunam* can be rendered more or leſs aſtringent or concoctive, as required, the juice in either caſes that involuntarily eſcapes downwards being known to be an excellent ſtomatic, conſequently ſalutary; whilſt the auxilaries uſed by the others are pernicious to the ultimate degree, debilating mind and body, and carrying with them a train of conſequences deſtructive to mankind.

I left the women expatiating on the quality of the *beatle*, which they did with as much glee as a club of faſhionable connoiſſeurs in wines would over a batch of Burgundy, when charging the red battalions they engage hob and nob with full bumpers in hand. This *beatle* beſides it's other good qualities, cheers up the heart, and gives a zeſt to converſation, and in ſhort, is held in ſuch eſtimation in all parts of Indoſtan, that the females at viſits with as much aſſiduity and punctilio as ladies in America or Europe wait on each other at tea, attend their viſitors over their *beatle*, and *pondans* in which they keep their *beatle*, the little ſpoons and utenſils and the different ingredients

ingredients that conſtitute this beatle all together, and priding themſelves on the utility, intrinſic value and magnificence of their *pondans*, which are in general made of the fineſt gold or ſilver *filligre* their appendages; a *pondon* is held as a very eſſential part of an Indoſtan lady's equipage.

No. 8.

PETER SEGUIN, Gent.

Dublin.

Calcutta.

YOU was always fond of Eaſt-India intelligence, and I keep my word in writing to you from theſe parts, either Louiſa or Anne ******, preſerve copies of all the letters I tranſmit them or my acquaintance, they will with pleaſure ſubmit them to your peruſal, by which you will get initiated into the ſpirit of theſe miſcellanies, without which you would be at a loſs to form your criterions. A ſet of dancing girls having been ſent for on my arrival in Bengal, to entertain me by their performances, I will give you a ſketch of the plot and hiſtory of the comic opera that was played, and in my next ſend an account of the performance throughout, to ſome one or other of my correſpondence, as uſual.

The piece was called the Durrabas Sardar, (this is the deceitful Lord) and the perſons of the drama were as follows: Sardarilly Kan, a ſovereign Prince amongſt the *Patans*, at war with the *Sicks*; Shah Jahan, Emperor of Indoſtan; a *peerzadah*, i. e. prieſt, and two eunuchs.

The women were, Mawtab, one of the Emperor's daughters, and Sittarradar, a Princeſs reſiding at Lahor

Lahor with Zemroude, who had been ſeduced by Sardarilly Kan. Mawtab is contracted in marriage to Sardarilly Kan, whom the Emperor diſpatches after this contract, to engage the *Sicks*, propoſing the nuptials to be conſummated on his return from battle, who having ſet off to meet the enemy, Mawtab impatiently waiting her lover's return; but he paying his addreſſes to another lady at the ſame time, one Sittarradar, of Lahor (unknown to Mawtab and the Emperor her father) after having obtained the victory, he ſends a rich dooly with an embroidered *ramol* as a private token to Sittarradar, in order to convey her incog. to the palace at Agra, where he propoſes meeting her with a prieſt that ſhall join their hands immediately on her arrival; and prior to that, he having wrote two letters, one to Mawtab at Delhy, and another to Sittarradar, the Princeſs at Lahor, which letters, in the hurry of his affairs he making a miſtake in the ſuperſcription, by addreſſing the letter intended for Sittarradar to Mawtab, and the one intended for Mawtab to Sittarradar; allowing Sittarradar ſufficient time to pay him the propoſed viſit and return before Mawtab could, from the nature of his appointment with her, reaſonably expect him at the capitol, which opening an unexpected ſcene to theſe two ladies, (neither of which, as women of the firſt rank, could brook the idea of a competitor in their pretenſions to the aſcendency in matrimonial rights, the firſt wife amongſt Mahometans, notwithſtanding a plurality of wives is admiſſible, ever claiming a prerogative over the reſt) enraged at Sardarilly Kan's diſſimulation, (though apart) theſe ladies formed ſimilar plans, at meeting together at Delhy (being intimate from their childhood) they unbending their minds to each other, and concerting meaſures for expoſing their deceiver, and being revenged on him for

his perfidy to them, they put them into execution in the following manner; Zemroude, whom Mawtab had taken for an attendant, compaſſionating her misfortune, jointly with Sittarradar opened the ſecret to her, and propoſing to her to dreſs herſelf in Sittarradar's cloaths and jewels, and in the identical *Dooly* ſent for Sittarradar, and to ſet off for Agra and meet Sardarilly Kan at midnight (the time appointed) in the Varando of a garden within the palace, whilſt they, diſguiſed as *Kiſtmutdars*, would accompany her with all expedition to Sardarilly Kan, who having been deluded by him, with eagerneſs conſented to carry on the plot, that a ſtrong ſimilarity of age, features, voice, ſize and geſture, which ſubſiſted between her and Sittarradar could not but conſiderably contribute to the ſucceſs of.

Theſe ſteps taken, the two heroines with the injured Zemroude ſet off for the metropolis of Agra, where at the time and place appointed by the Patan General, Zemroude (perſonating Sittarradar) meets her ſeducer, falls into his arms, and preſenting him with a rich *ramol* embroidered with diamonds, ſent as a token, and the letter that was received by Mawtab, but intended for Sittarradar, not doubting the identity of the perſon ſhe repreſents, the prieſt makes his appearance, and at an altar joins them in lawful marriage, Mawtab and Sittarradar being called upon as witneſſes to the deed; all which perſonages by favor of their veils, notwithſtanding the brilliancy of the lunar orb and the glare of the tapers, eſcaped to all intents and purpoſes diſcovery.

The nuptial knot tied by the *Peerzadah*, the the new married Prince with his Princeſs withdraws and retires to his Seraglio, leaving two eunuchs to guard the doors; Mawtab and Sittarradar witneſs to theſe tranſactions, and though overjoyed at the ſucceſs of their undertaking on the one hand, but as exaſperated

exaſperated, and with reaſon, at the chicanery of this Patan on the other, agreed to force their way into the *Zunnannah* and open the plot, and directly ſtrove to burſt the doors, in attempting which, two eunuchs oppoſing them, the Princeſſes draw their poignards againſt theſe eunuchs breaſts, and oblige them to deliver up to them the keys, which they do with timidity and precipitation, when the ſcene changing to the *Zunnannah*, where Sardarilly Kan and Zemroude appearing arm in arm, Mawtab and Sittarradar throwing off their veils and appearing to Sardarilly Kan as Princeſſes, and Sardarilly Kan diſcovering his miſtake, the conflict happens, when the two Princeſſes contemn this common deceiver, load him with bitter reproaches, ſpurn him from them and deride him, 'till at laſt Sardarilly Kan, provoked by their behaviour, by the trick that had been played him, and by his being made an object of ridicule by theſe Princeſſes, in the heat of his paſſion he orders *Zemroude* to be ſtrangled, but the Badſhaw all this while apprized of what was going forward, and determined to ſee juſtice done, timely interfering, a ſtop is put to theſe raſh proceedings, ſilence impoſed all round, and immediate reſtitution to all parties ordered by Shahjahan from Sardarilly Kan, who is compelled to make good the ſettlements he had propoſed when he promiſed the Princeſſes marriage, by paying down the ſtipulated value of them, and ordered to make over his Jaghier to Zemroude, or ſwear to be loving and faithful to her during life, when chooſing the latter, and begging pardon for his indiſcretion, the piece ends more happily than it began.

No. 9.

General letter to my CORRESPONDENTS.

Calcutta.

YOU form one circle of correſpondence, and communicate your letters I know to each other, I ſhall therefore in future not point out to any of you any more the methods you may take to get at this or that particular number, but leave it to yourſelves to do as you pleaſe therein, as I ſhall confine my addreſſes entirely to this circle of my acquaintance; and thinking myſelf highly honored by the attention paid to my ſcralls, my ſtudy ſhall be to render them as worthy your acceptance as poſſible.

The perſons among the dancing girls who were fixed upon to repreſent the characters in the drama, we may ſuppoſe a long while prepared before hand, and exerciſed in the like performances by ſuch frequent repreſentations, muſt have got their particular parts well off by heart, and be ſufficiently adequate to the taſk. The parts of Mawtab and Sittarradar were to be acted by two young beautiful girls, whoſe real names taken from hiſtory happened to be the ſame as thoſe of the perſonages they were going to repreſent: theſe girls moreover happening to be maidens, and as females in Indoſtan during the ſtate of virginity are particularly diſtinguiſhed and more than ordinary attended to during that ſtate, before I proceed any further I will give you an account of them.—A girl that is a maiden never wears a pink or ſcarlet *pizwage* or ſkirt, except it is on the day of her wedding, when her friends if they think proper may inveſt her with this mark of diſtinction; and as an important indication of virginity the pearl that is wore in common and ſuſpended by a little ring reeved through the middle ſnip of the noſe and admits

mits the pearl down to the top of the upper lip, has during her virginity no collateral jems on each ſide like the middle pearls wore by the reſt of her ſex who have been joined in hymeneal bands, as an undeniable mark of innocence and purity, nothing but the bare pearl drop on her lip appearing till after conſummation in marriage; and being in general the youngeſt of the females in a family, a greater attention is paid to her by her connections, and more means uſed to improve as well as amuſe her, particularly amongſt the dancing girls, when a *cheerabund*, as the flower of the flock and favorite of the company or ſet ſhe belongs to, being on account of her youth the beſt calculated to pleaſe, no pains are ſpared to render her equally attractive in other reſpects by an extraordinary attention paid to the decorations of her perſon, that her ſuperficial ornaments added to her natural charms and acquired accompliſhments, ſhe may by being exhibited in the moſt advantageous point of view the more readily attract the eye of a *Shazahdah*; a *Soubah*, or opulent *Rajah*, or a rich young libertine amongſt the Engliſh or French *Toppe-wallas* in their ſettlements at a notch; and by making a ſignal conqueſt of a man of fortune ſecure to herſelf and her friends a capital ſum of *rupees*, with rich preſents from the faſcinated *Syab*, whom ſhe has allured with her charms on taking leave; beſtowed as an equivalent for the favors conferred and the ſacrifice ſhe has made of her charms to the lofty *borrah Syab* or pompous aſiatic lord. The two perſons pointed out to repreſent the two princeſſes, I have noticed; which with a ſpirited young female who was pitched upon to act the part of Zemroode, and two perſonable grown women larger than the reſt, to do that of Shajahan, the Emperor and the Prieſt with two tall palled looking girls who were at hand to act the parts of the eu-

nuchs, conſtituted the whole of the perſons of the drama.

Theſe leading characters dreſſed in a more conſpicuous manner than the reſt of their comrades, to ſuit the occaſion, advanced in front forming three *Typhas*, with Mawtab in the centre of the firſt, Sattarradar in the centre of the ſecond, and Zemroode in the like poſition with reſpect to the third, when the opera opened, and was conducted in the following manner,—the *Typhas* thus in readineſs, on the entrance of about ten *Moſſolljees* with their lighted *moſſalls* blazing in their hands, (which are flambeaux uſed all over India) fixed in braſs handles, they altered their *Typhas*, and Mawtab between Settarradar and Zemroode, in trio, ſang a ſong, the tune of which reſembled in ſome meaſure the tune of 'Water parted from the ſea,' &c.—This was accompanied by the *Serindas*, *Tomtoms*, and *Beringealls*; in the courſe of which ſcene the abuſed Princeſſes would interchange frowns and ſmiles in different cadence, riſe and fall their voices, and modulate them to the different keys or pitch of the inſtruments of the band then playing, and to the meaſure of the tune in hand; which artfully adapted to the ſenſe of the words, being *alto* and *fortiſſimo*, where complaints ſhould be expreſſed in rage, and *moderato adagio* or *piano*, in leſs irritable altercations when the dialogue was cheerful, &c. &c. All this while the bodies and limbs of every muſician belonging to the band was in motion, from the *Serindawallas* down to the *Tomtoms* and *Beringealls*; the *Serindawallas* notwithſtanding the ſoftneſs with which they drawed their bows acroſs the ſtrings of their viols, and the delicacy with which they ſtopped their fingers, would give at times ſuch ſudden exertions of their creſts and ſhoulders, and violent retrogradations of their elbows, that a ſpectator who had never ſeen them perform

perform before, would imagine they had thrown themſelves into convulſive fits; and the ſame with the others in the different departments of their buſineſs. The *Tomtoms* and *Beringealls* being on oppoſite ſides of the place, emulated in endeavouring to outdo each other in a variety of odd poſitions they put their bodies in, and as uncommon geſticulations they made with their limbs, and grimaces with their faces, by various aggravations of the features, and confronting each other like combattants who had entered the liſts to decide ſome warlike diſpute, would begin the conteſt by mutual nodding, winking and beckoning acroſs the ſaloon; after which the *Tomtoms* perhaps leading the van for the then preſent, would with fingers and thumbs (for thoſe are all the implements they have to extort ſounds out of the inſtruments with) in order to ſucceed without failing in the part they were playing at that particular juncture, ſhrink their heads to ſuch a degree into the hollow formed, by ſhrugging up of the ſhoulders at the ſame time, in order to facilitate and humor the ratling the reville they were beating with their fingers on their hollow inſtruments or *Tomtoms*, while the *Beringealls* not idle on their part, and equally ambitious to demonſtrate their abilities, would draw up their mouths, grin and bite their lips, ſtare the oppoſite *Tomtoms* full in the face, then graſping their *Berringealls*, menace with them, ſeemingly, the *Tomtoms*; and continue this ſport for ſome time in the following manner: the Serindawallas now conjoin both timbrels together, clap them in that poſition to one ear, and with incredible rapidity and violence ding for half a minute or ſo, then rattle them over their heads, or with leſs violence when any ſoft tender air was playing, gently ſound them within a reſpectful diſtance of the Princeſſes ears; and on a tranſition of the tune from

piano

piano to *fortiſſimo*, from that poſition that was partly erect, ſuddenly bending their bodies downwards with their fiſts employed as before, as ſuddenly ſweep the ſurface of the carpet on which they were ſtanding, and looking eagerly at the performers in the face, however uneaſy the poſture they might be in by the unnatural curvature of their necks; whilſt the actreſſes on their part obſerving carefully their quee throughout the different ſcenes of action, accompanied this vocal and inſtrumental muſic with as great a variety of agreeable alterations in the diſpoſition of their robes and the inclination of their heads and elegant poſitions of their feet and hands and arms; while the veils all this time, like different coloured enſigns and pendants waving about ſhips ſterns and maſt-heads in light intermitting breezes, circumvolving round theſe brilliant aſiatic actreſſes in innumerable gyrations, heightened the complexion of the entertainment, and obliged the company to concur that it tranſcended any theatrical performance they ever ſaw exhibited in Europe. Thus did they proceed, enveloping and developing themſelves with their veils; ſometimes exhibiting to full view their whole perſons from top to toe, at others affording but as tranſient a glimpſe thereof, whilſt in a perpetual motion of their bodies and limbs, without jumping up or down or beating time with their heels, or croſſing over and figuring in, as is done in hornpipes, jiggs, &c. amongſt us, which they would eſteem rude in a female to pretend to attempt; they went through the innumerable evolutions of the dance, to the end of the piece. This may convey to you a tolerable good idea of what is called in Indoſtan a *notch*; there remains now but to determine what name, with propriety, might be given to this aſiatic entertainment, in Engliſh. In treating of it all along, I have occaſionally called it an opera, a dance,

dance, or a dramatic performance, which latter includes all productions of the drama whatever, and a name general to all theatrical productions, I thought with great propriety might be applied to a *notch*: they have all the properties of a dramatic piece, viz. an hiſtory, with an epiſode, a plot, and a counter-plot, which are well wound up and concealed, and the characters as well ſupported and contrived, replete with variety and incidndence; and the laws of time, place and action, as minutely obſerved, inaſmuch that were theſe pieces to be acted in one of the Theatres in London, by his Majeſty's comedians, they would meet with as general applauſe as any opera that ever was acted; which latter ſpecies of writing I think they ſhould be claſſed amongſt; but this diſadvantage theſe operas labour under in Indoſtan, where no man cannot even as much as ride out in the ſame carriage with a female, or ſit near her in public, without becoming an object of ridicule, it would be abſurdity then to the laſt degree, and a ſubject of admiration and contempt, to ſee men and women indiſcriminately mixed together on an occaſion like the one I am alluding to; but for a man to offer to kiſs a lady's lips before a company, or take her in his arms, would be an offence that could not be pardoned, and conſequently inadmiſſable in Indoſtan; which will ſufficiently account for the women acting the part of men on theſe occaſions, and the reaſon they have not public Theatres on purpoſe for exhibitions of this nature is as plain. The natives of Indoſtan fond of permanent things, and holding all ſcenery and pictureſque repreſentations of palaces and groves as puerile and tawdry, prefer carrying on their country diſſipations in actual Saloons covered with rich Perſian carpets; and ſuperb Varandos, and natural auguſt groves formed by nature, with ſome

elegant edifice therein to retire to; and flattering myſelf that you will ſide with me in opinion of the rectitude of the Indoſtan gentry, in theſe laſt particulars, and in that of their *notches* being dramatic pieces that may come within the deſcription of comic operas, I will conclude and bid you adieu.

No. 10.

GEORGE C*******, eſq; Athy, in Ireland.

Plaſſay Garden-Houſe.

I Have now been in the country a conſiderable time, and a long intercourſe with the natives, added to the knowledge I have acquired of the language, enables me to judge for myſelf in matters I was before obliged to be guided by others in: I can maintain a converſation with any people I have buſineſs with, dictate a letter, or liſten to a hiſtory while reading to me, without being at a loſs to underſtand its meaning; and it being a fine evening, I have been ſolacing myſelf in the varando of Plaſſey garden-houſe, and ſatisfying my curioſity in viſiting the particular ſpots on theſe plains that Plaſſey gives name to, that have became the moſt remarkable and in a manner eminent for ſome important incident at the battle that was fought on them by major Clive, when he engaged the *Soubah Serujahdowlah*, where, after compleatly defeating him, this unhappy Prince in his flight fell a victim to the private reſentment of a fellow of low ſtamp, who for theft ſome time before, had his ears cropt by order of his highneſs. A number of particulars were related to me concerning this battle, by ſome people who attended

tended this garden-houſe, I have mentioned that perhaps I might tranſmit to you as matters that have eſcaped the obſervation of other writers, but ſhall decline it, I think, and prefer filling my letters with my own obſervations, and proceed in giving you an account of my voyage to this place from Calcutta. On the eve of my departure from Fort-William, being employed to aſſiſt in a branch of a ſurvey that was to be made in the province of Dacca and Chittagan, which latter place is at the bottom of the bay of Bengal, I was furniſhed with a *Budgero*, or rather allowed the hire of one I had bought a little before, a large *Dinghy*, with two cook-boats to carry and to dreſs the victuals in, and cook in beſides when we ſhould not make faſt at ſome *Gott*, or run up ſome creek in the evenings, as is cuſtomary, with a little boat to paſs and repaſs from the ſhore to the larger boats. In this Budgero I had embarked my Palanquin and equipage in general, my naval and military department and houſhold, if I may be allowed to uſe ſuch lofty diſtinctions in ſo humble a ſphere as I revolve in. My military conſiſted of an Huvledar and fifteen Seapoys, with their arms and ammunition, and two field pieces, four *Gollandaſhes*; which with two *Claſſees*, my *Mangy* and ſixteen *Dandees* to govern and row the *Budgero*, and a *Mangy* and ſixteen *Dandees* to the *Dinghies*, with five men to each cook-boat beſides, compleated my naval force; my own private equipage and attendants were as follow, a new and handſome Palanquin, with ſilver dolphin's head and tail in their proper place, a ſprightly ſizeable *tarſy* horſe, that coſt me about fifteen hundred rupees, with European bridle and ſaddle and furniture, conſtituted my equipage; and my attendance were in the order and rank I have below placed them, leaving them to you to enumerate,—Ramramboſs my *Banyan*, a *Bramin* and of courſe

courſe a Gentoo, Syedillykan my *Munſee* or Perſian ſchool-maſter to teach me to write and read the Perſian language; Mamadkan my *Conſommah* or butler, and under him a *Bobbojan* or cook, and a *Courageba-dar* or market man, a *Kittyſawl* boy to carry my umbrello, a *Pankahbadar* or fan-man, a *Chowzeeba-dar*, a little *Callofringhy* boy, two *Moſſowljees* or flambeaux-men, a *Mattarrany* or woman room ſweeper, a *Sardar-bearer*, and under him eight others, making nine bearers in all to carry my *Pallanquin*. The above were Ballaſore bearers, which are the beſt of bearers, being remarkable for their activity, ſtrength and cleanlineſs; add to theſe an *Hookerba-dar* and his aſſiſtant or man, and boy to take care of and trim my Indoſtan pipe; an *Hadgeam* or barber, a *Doben* or waſher-man, a *Durrahwan* or porter to watch the door, a *Fruſs* to bruſh my clothes and furniture, a *Sitrigebadar* or carpet-man, and a *Hal-lacore*, compleated the whole of my domeſtics.—— The reſidue of my train being of quite a different ſtamp, as likewiſe the offices they filled, I ſhall place them apart:—imprimis, a *Chubdar*; ſecondly, two *Peuns*, and thirdly, two *Harcarars*. The buſineſs of the *Chubdar* was to announce the arrival of any perſon, and to uſher him in, if permitted, who, as an emblem of his authority carries a *Bamboo-mace* in hand, covered with ſilver. The *Peuns* are a ſpecious of military men, and are armed with daggers, ſwords and ſhields, and act the part of body guards. The *Harcarars*, who are Hendoos, are employed in no other ſervice than that of delivering letters and meſſages, though it is part of the duty of either of the former to do either, or to arreſt men they have controverſial buſineſs with, collateral to this equi-page and to theſe attendants. My *Banyan*, *Munſy*, and *Conſommah*, *Chubdar* and *Peuns*, had theirs; the *Banyan* had his *Hackerries*, *Palanquin* and *Tanyon*,

or

or mountain horſe, with double the number of ſervants; for being a *Bramin*, his daily bathings, libations and different calls of religion exacted a greater number of attendants than had he been of any other tribe or caſt. The *Munſy* had his *Tanyon*, his *Hookerbadar* and *Syſs*, and one half of the ſervants at leaſt each another ſervant to attend him. My travelling utenſils and furniture, were as follow,—a tea equipage, in camp baſkets covered with red leather, and carried by *Bearers* on *Bamboo* poles, when travelling by land; my wines in ditto, a ſilver *Hooker*, a *Gallab perch*, *Chowrees*, *Punkahs*, *Chillam* and *Chillamchee*, two *Pig Dannies** and cooking utenſils.

With this luggage, navigation and attendants, having every thing in readineſs to depart early in the morning, I proceeded up the river, and in ranging the ſhore along paſſed by *Bogbuzar*, *Barnagore*, *Chitpore*, and ſeveral other intermediate little hamlets and *buzars*. Bog Buzar is about two coſs from Calcutta, and is where the company manufacture their gun-powder. *Barnagore* is two coſs farther up the river and belongs to the Dutch, who have a counting-houſe there and a large flag-ſtaff to hoiſt their colours on. Above *Barnagore* is *Chitpore*, an *Hindoo* hamlet, remarkable for having been the ſpot where *Serajahdowlk*'s army encamp'd when he marched againſt Calcutta and ſack'd it, which as an event that prov'd fatal to a number of Engliſhmen, and by which the company ſuſtained a conſiderable loſs, tho' related by Mr. Holwell in very ſtriking and pathetic terms, who was then upon the ſpot, and narrowly eſcaped with his life, as a matter ſtrictly connected with the ſubjects I am treating of; in my own words, and from accounts collected by myſelf I will relate.

Serajahdowlah,

* See Gloſſary for explanation of the above articles.

Serajahdowlah, the Soubah of Bengal, a young voluptuous prince, too apt to be influenced by the advice of ſycophants, in conſequence of repeated complaints made to him of the Engliſh merchants encroachments on the lands, ſtands in *buzars*, wharves, *gotts*, and harbouring places of the *Moors* and *Gentoos*, his ſubjects, in the neighbourhood of Calcutta, and at other of their ſettlements: likewiſe of the increaſe of cannon on the walls of their factories added to their repeated peremptory refuſals of payments of certain cuſtoms, that independent of their exempts of duties from the *Sircar*, the *Soubah* thought himſelf entitled to, and their having confined and puniſhed a *Patan* for ſome ſlight offence he had given one of the companies factors, and was then in actual ſervice of the *Nabob*, a fellow who likewiſe had ſerved him in his pleaſures on repeated occaſions. Serajahdowlah reſenting this behaviour, and wiſhing to pay his eaſtern territories a viſit, having the expulſion of the Engliſh in view, with a large army of Indoſtan cavalry marched from Muxadabads to Chitpore, where he encamped; when the chief of the Engliſh ſettlement, appriſed of his approach, diſpatched one of his factors to know the reaſon of ſuch an oſtenſible appearance, but the meſſenger being treated cheap, and receiving no ſatisfactory anſwer, returned to Calcutta; and the *Soubah*'s army approaching, ſome of the Engliſh inhabitants ſaved themſelves with what effects they could muſter on board the ſhips in the river, while the chief, with Mr. Holwell, and a few of their acquaintance, planted at the moſt eligible paſſes of the town, four or five pieces of cannon, and ſtood ready to oppoſe their entrance, and on their ſtriving to force their way ſword in hand, the Engliſh killed a conſiderable number of their horſe, and made ſuch a devaſtation amongſt them, that had there been but people ſufficient to

ſupply

ſupply their artillery and ammunition in proportion, they would have, as it was thought, fruſtrated their deſigns ſo far as to have withdrawn the moſt valuable of their effects, and ſecured them on board the ſhipping; but fatigued with the working and loading of their guns, without neceſſary reliefs, &c. they were obliged to fly and retreat into the old fort and other receſſes of the town for ſafety, when the Soubah entering with his troops, they plundered the houſes and ſtores, and ended the evening in the ruin of Calcutta and the death of one hundred and forty-five Engliſhmen, who were ſuffocated during the night, in a place called the black-hole, fronting the interior gate of the old fort. This melancholy affair was aſcribed to the raſh and premeditated orders of the Nabob:* but without palliating the matter or exculpating him from blame, this was the caſe as repreſented to me, by people of undoubted veracity, who were witneſſes to the whole tranſaction. Some of the ſtores taking fire in the old fort after the enemy had poſſeſſed themſelves of the place, the Engliſh who were then under a guard, alarmed for their ſafety and not knowing but the incineration was done deſignedly, in order to get rid of them by burning them in their barracks, forced their way out, and being ſeized on by the *Seapoys*, they were clapped into the black hole, a dark ſubterranean dungeon belonging to the fort, about 20 feet ſquare, which had but one ſmall window to let the air in, below the level of the ground, and ſecured with iron bars; where the cloſeneſs of the place and the want of water, and freſh air for reſpiration, one hundred and forty-five of them periſhed as above mentioned. The dimenſions of the place were unknown to the officer of *Seapoys* who commanded the party that had impriſoned theſe Europeans,

* 'Tis as cuſtomary in writing or ſpeaking of a Soubah, to ſtile him Nabob as Soubah.

Europeans, and when application was to have been made to the *Soubah*, for to exchange their place of confinement, he had unfortunately retired within the precincts of his *Zunnannah*, where it was impracticable to have acceſs to him, or the untimely death of theſe unhappy men might, tis probable, have been prevented; but neither that ſtep nor ſeveral others that Mr. Holwell, who eſcaped the fate of his comrades, had taken for their preſervation, anſwered any eſſential purpoſe. The *Soubah* immerged in his pleaſures, and his troops employed, ſome in reſting themſelves and others in dividing their ſpoils, the repeated cries of the priſoners, panting and gaſping for air and water, unattended to, they died in a heap, in the happening of which cataſtrophe, if the Soubah was reprehenſible in any thing, it was the little attention, 'tis ſaid, he paid to the news that was brought him the morning following of the death of theſe people, when it was ſuggeſted he would have puniſhed the commandant of *Seapoys* for his remiſſneſs in not examining into the ſize of the priſon before he ordered ſuch a number of men into confinement; but calling for his Hooker, whilſt ſmoaking it, inſtead of attending to the matter in queſtion, tho' ſerious enough in its nature to have exacted a greater ſhare of his attention, he ſatisfied himſelf with ſaying, *Allap kuhhookum*, i. e. The will of God. *Waw toppee walla kuh naſſeeb*, and the hat men's lot; ſome weeks after which he returned towards his capitol, thinking he had effectually routed the Engliſh out of his dominions, but diſappointed in that, and the immenſe quantity of riches he thought to have poſſeſſed himſelf of, by ſurprizing and plundering Calcutta, which was, if not a primary, a ſecondary motive for his making this deſcent: provoked at his diſappointment and the fallacious repreſentations which had been made to him of the wealth

wealth of this ſettlement, he determined on making an example of the perſon who had infuſed thoſe notions into his head, and ſending a meſſenger for the identical man, a fellow who under the colour of religion had acquired the character of a pious and ſincere Mahometan, tho' in fact an hypocrite and deceiver, taxing him with his impoſture, ordered him to be ſtrangled and thrown into an old tomb on the road ſide, as he was on his march within about four or five *coſs* of his capital, with an alcoran that he had claſped to his breaſt, and a bunch of beads in his hands that he had uſed to carry continually about him. This unfortnnate Muſſulman having been informed by *Fakirs* and other emigrants of as little credibility, that the *Toppee Wallas* at Calcutta poſſeſſed immenſe riches in their ſtores, tho' but meerly chimeras, infuſed into his brain by theſe itinerant enthuſiaſtics, he to flatter the ideas of the prince and to induce him to plunder a place, in the deſpoiling of which he gueſſed he might have become a gainer (in a private audience he had demanded of him) imparted thoſe matters to him as facts, induced him to precipitate a ſtep he might otherwiſe probably have declined.

Theſe anecdotes I thought proper to introduce, as they contribute to ſhew the temper of this man, and to point out by what an unexpected chain of events the credit of the Engliſh factors in Bengal was re-eſtabliſhed, and the overthrow of this reſtleſs young Prince brought about; who not many months after fell a victim to the reſentment of the Engliſh, by their contrivance, and loſt his life in a diſgraceful manner in the fray, for major Clive arriving with commodore Watſon, from Europe, he engaged one *Meer Jaffier Alli Kan*, a *Syed* of ſome repute, who was then a general under the Soubah, to head an army againſt his maſter, in conſort with the Company's

pany's forces, then conſiſting of about 600 Europeans and a ſmall train of artillery, headed by major Clive, who having previouſly agreed to give this Meer Jaffier the *Soubahſhip* of Bengal for his ſervices, with this Indoſtan army and European detachment they gained the plains of Plaſſey, ſituate on the banks of a branch of the river Hughly, about thirty *coſs* from Calcutta, and twenty *coſs* from Muxadabad's, where the *Nabob* was encamped with an army of a thouſand cavalry and infantry, beſides a large train of artillery poſted to advantage in the *topes* of Plaſſey; which Clive's army approaching, and beginning to annoy with their field pieces, the Soubah's forces ſallying out, headed by himſelf, and the confederate troops advancing at the ſame time, a general engagement took place; when the Soubah's troops unable to withſtand the briſk fire of the Engliſh platoons and artillery, giving way, they were ſoon put to flight, and quit the field with a conſiderable loſs ſuſtained on their ſide; when Jaffier Ally Kan, in whoſe name the battle was fought, having gained a complete victory through the craftineſs of Clive, in front of the two armies, was proclaimed Soubah, and conducted to Muxadabads to take the place on the muſnud of the vanquiſhed Prince, who had exalted him to great honors, and intruſted him with the ſecond in command of his troops; when *Serajahdowlah*, averſe to falling into the hands of the enemy, not truſting to his elephant or a horſe that was offered him to retreat on, he diſmounted and concealed himſelf in a valley of thickets, where being diſcovered and known by a man he had not many months before puniſhed by cropping his ears, this vindictive Moorman recollecting the injury, taking him by ſurprize, ſplit his ſcull with a battle-ax, and afterwards cut his head off and carried it to Jaffier Ally Kan.——From Chitpore, in my *Budgero*, to Sirampore,

Sirampore, a daniſh ſettlement about four coſs to the northward of Chitpore, during this interval, my time was employed in viewing the different ſcenes that ſucceſſively preſented themſelves as the *Budgero* was tracted by Coolies up the river; a method adopted by all the navigators of the great Ganges, and its largeſt or inferior branches; the rapidity of all which ſtreams are ſo great that no boat with wind alone, except in the months of November, December and January and February, when ſoutherly winds ſet in, whoſe influence extends more or leſs to ſome diſtance up the country during about four months of the year, one half of which it will, as obſerved, at times blow freſh enough to ſend even heavy laden *burs* up the Ganges, againſt a very ſtrong current, without tracting, but the only certain dependance of getting up the Ganges, the river Hughly and the Gogra, and in ſhort up all the rivers that are frequented by boats of trade and paſſage in this country, being by tracting, a method from time immemorial uſed in theſe parts, the *Dandies* and *Mangies*, and people who have the conduct of theſe boats, having a very ſucceſsful knack in tracting them, as matters that might tend to the information of future European or American adventurers diſpoſed to direct their purſuits towards theſe parts, I will deſcribe their method: they have ſmall but well made cotton lines, about three times the thickneſs of whip-cord; theſe lines they faſten to the veſſel's mainmaſt-head, after reeving them thro' ſmooth thimbles or rings that are ſpliced into lines that can occaſionally be caſt off or hauled down to the veſſel's bow, as may be required to keep her from (what in the ſea phraſe is called) ſhearing broad off from the ſhore, which without this prevention they would be very apt to do. Theſe lines are always made of a ſufficient ſtrength to ſuſtain any

any jerk they may receive from a ſudden zigzag motion of the veſſel, when repelled on the bow or the quarter by the violent retrograde direction of the ſtream, and long enough to afford a ſufficient ſcope for the veſſel to keep always at a ſafe and convenient diſtance from the ſtrand, and equally to admit of ſix, ten, fifteen or twenty *coolies*, more or leſs as may be required, to haul the veſſel along ſhore by this tracting line, which coolies, the conductors of boats belonging to the Company in Bengal, are never at a loſs to obtain; a *Harcarar* being ſufficient at any time, or on any occaſion, to ſupply that defect by only ſhewing himſelf in the out-ſkirts of a town, or village, and calling out *Begary! Begary!* When whether *Zemindars* buſied in making or repairing their granaries, in grinding grain or ſugar canes, howing, harrowing or ploughing, or mechanics of any denomination whatever, weavers, maſons, carpenters, ſmiths, taylors, and in ſhort, men of all the above deſcriptions, at the ſignal given for Begaries, muſt quit their reſpective occupations, however deeply engaged in them, and away with the *Harcarars* to draw the *Toppee Wallas* boats along, or if travelling by land, to carry their luggage, in as much that the loom, agriculture, mechanics with all its branches, muſt be thrown aſide till the Company is ſerved; and as a diſcovery of the leaſt repugnancy to obeying theſe unreaſonable orders of the folks belonging to theſe Toppe Wallas, be attended with ſmart *Chaw Bucking* (i. e. whipping) theſe ſubordinated people knowing the conſequences of heſitation or being refractory, on the appearance of the above-mentioned emiſſaries, will flock round them with ſubmiſſion till they ſhall have aſſembled perhaps double the number wanted, when one half of thoſe there ſhould be no need of: on their bribing the Harcaras or Seapoys with two or three rupees, or more

or leſs, in proportion to their number and circumſtances, will be diſmiſſed, and thoſe that are detained frequently ſtripped of their turbans, which will be lodged on board as forfeitures, in caſe they ſhould give them the ſlip. Theſe *Coolies* will tract the boats from the place they were taken from to the next habited ſpot, let the diſtance be long or ſhort, when the ſame ſteps will be taken to obtain freſh hands, and the laſt catched *Coolies* after ſallaming releaſed, it being an eſtabliſhed cuſtom amongſt the inhabitants of this country, never to leave a perſon he has been treating with or been employed by, without *Sallaming* him firſt, and theſe *Coolies*, according to cuſtom of the country; on parting will be very ſtrenuous in obtruding their Sallams to the *Peuns*, *Harcarars* and *Seapoys*, or any of the attendants belonging to the boats they had been tracting, tho' in return to their compliments they will be ſure to meet with abuſe. Theſe Indoſtan hirelings under the Company valuing themſelves on the important offices they fill, imagine they ſhow their conſequence by treating the inhabitants cheap, as verified, not only in this inſtance, but in others, will generally return their compliments with kicks and cuffs.——I ſhall now return to the thread of my narrative and continuing my account of my voyage up the river Hughly to Plaſſey.

Our proximity to the ſhore in ſailing along, afforded me all the opportunity I could wiſh to ſurvey the country, its buildings, animal and vegetable produce; the images of which are lively in my mind, I think I ſee them now in the Budgero I then was in. Figure to yourſelf a large river, bounded by a flat ſandy beach, with a bank of tough earth and clay cut through with gutters running in an oblique direction to the front, made by the deſcent of the waters during the rains, at a diſtance ſufficient to admit two or three carriages driving abreaſt between it and the

the ſtream, and you will have a tolerable good idea of the ſide of the river. The country, which is in general level from Calcutta to Muxadabads, runs back in plains to a conſiderable diſtance till it meets the Burampore hills, and others that divide it from the ſouthern provinces and the Decan, which interſperſed with little groves and lone trees here and there in the midſt of fields and verdant plains, gives it a rural and pleaſing proſpect. Theſe lands are of a rich ſoil, and favorable to the production of grain or vegetables, and the trees in general are as friendly in bearing variety of fruits.

The groves I mentioned are of the utmoſt utility to the country and its inhabitants;—in them the Mahometans and *Gentoos* have their places of worſhip, Moſques and *Pagodas*, public Bagnios and wells, or reſervoirs of water. If a Moſque, and ſituate in one of theſe groves, a *Fakir* or a *Peerzadah* will have his abode there, and ſometimes ſix or ſeven others of the ſame denomination with him, conſtant reſidents, and perhaps proprietors by inheritance or by purchaſe; Mahometans and Gentoos both frequently buying of the *Sircar* diſtricts for an abode during life or pleaſure, in one of theſe ſhady, ſolitary or frequented ſpots. If the grove is occupied by a *Gentoo Fakir*, a Bramin or Byrahghy, it is as likely he may be accompanied by ſome of his ſect as not, but ſeldom or ever a Fakir, whether Gentoo or Mahometan, is without a man or a boy to keep his company and attend him. In theſe groves, let the proprietor be what ſect he will, an alter will be erected of mud, brick or ſtone, with a turret over the platform, and a pedeſtal for an alcoran to lie on, if a Muſſulman; and if a Hendou, there will be in the place of an alcoran the figures of a Branim, Braminbull, Jaggernaut, or Kriſnou Swamey, hewed in ſtone or cut in wood. Theſe

Fakers

Fakers making theſe places their conſtant home, have likewiſe at leaſt a little ſhade made of thatch, to keep of the dew whilſt ſleeping, and a kind of a cook-room to put their utenſils in, with a fire-place adjacent to dreſs their victuals at; which fire-place being nothing but three lumps of baked clay ſtuck on the ſurface of a little terras of the ſame material, roſe about two inches from the ground, that they ſmooth at the top by wetting their hands and then rubbing them over it 'till it is even, are made with little trouble; ſo that a traveller can be provided with victuals, be accommodated with a fire-place, with wood for fuel; which article can alſo be obtained as readily, it being ſcattered all over the country amongſt the buſhes and trees; fire is likewiſe to be had at theſe Fakir's ſtands, as they never are without tinder, flints and matches.——Theſe groves ſerve likewiſe for the cattle to retreat to in the middle of the day, as well as all kinds of repoſitories for travellers: in the neighbourhood of large towns or villages, or in the vicinity of thick ſettled parts of the country, theſe groves, with which all Indoſtan is ſhaded, are the ſpots fixed upon for their moſt ſuperb Pagodas and Moſques, particularly the latter, in Bengal, where the Gentoo religion has from immemorial and centuries back, had ſuch innumerable adherents, and where Brumma being perhaps born, and his doctrine firſt originated, the diſcipline of it has ſince been ſo tenaciouſly obſerved; which together with the number of rich, ſuperſtitious Hindoos, who at the inſtances of the Bramins, and as munificent and liberal Rajahs, that during their lives and at their deaths bequeathed as many more for the ſame purpoſe; together with the innumerable donations from the various reſort of the Hindoo tribes, who from all parts of Indoſtan annually flock down to the Pagodas to pay their

devotions

devotions and compleat the different vows they have made to their reſpective divinities, by way of expiation for their ſins, may account principally for theſe temples being in greater number in Bengal than in any other part of Indoſtan.——— The ſuperb appearance of which buildings, ſituated amidſt theſe verdant groves, excited my curioſity to take a cloſer view of them, (particularly a remarkable large one about half way between Syram Pore and Chandernegore). I quit my Budgero, and with my *Banyan* and *Munſy*, made a little incurſion from the place we landed at, ordering the boats to proceed up to Hugly, and directed our ſteps towards this Indian temple, It ſtood in the middle of a large grove of mangoe trees, the fruit of which being ripe, and ſome of them preſented us by a *Bramin*, attendant on this building, we ate of them and I thought it delicious fruit. An avenue cut thro' this grove lead up to the front of the Pagoda, a very lofty pile, and of ſome conſiderable magnitude. It ſtood on an oblong platform of bricks, with a revetement of fine white *Chunnan* about ſix feet roſe from the ſurface of a large eſplanade pavement, compoſed of the ſame materials, that extended every way about forty yards from this platform. On the platform, which I take to have been thirty yards by ſixty, was erected the temple, conſiſting of one compleat ſquare, and a lofty hall in the midſt, included within four larger exterior apartments that had all arched entrances at right angles, with little columns at their gate-ways or entrances, whoſe pedeſtals were demi-urns cut through the conjugate diameter of their out-lines, and inverted, which met pine apples rector on the top, from the baſes of which ran diminiſhing regularly upwards, fluted columns that met capitals correſponding with whole pines above, with a corniſh that in the larger columns went round the building both within

within and without ſide theſe apartments, were niches in the walls, with ſeats large enough for to ſit down croſs-legged; and another ſtory above this were correſpondent apartments, much in the ſame ſtile, but with the addition of a gallery that went all round and was ornamented with balconies that projected conſiderably without the main body of the building. The ſecond ſtory was flat, and above it ran the upper part of the *Pagoda*, in form of a pyramid, with a number of narrow niches and arched ſlips and peep holes in it; in which was hung, according to the cuſtom of all the large *Pagoda's*, a ſet of bells about the ſize of ting-tangs, that the *Gentoos* ring on feſtivals. On the ſides and angles of this upper terras, were other leſs ſpires and turrets, with a bullaſtrade all round, and little balconies at convenient intervals, without which, ſupported by a double colonade of large pillars, whoſe pedeſtals met the out-line of the main oblong platform below, was carried round on a flat roof parade, covered with cement, about thirty feet in breadth and two hundred and forty feet in length, the two longeſt ſides which was ſcreened with a wall of ſix feet in height, divided into niches and arched windows, filled up with chequers, or brick work, like pidgeon holes, that let in the light, and anſwered the purpoſes of windows. Upon this wall, at equal diſtances, ſtood urns and pine apples, and both within and without, in every other nich, in bas relief, were the figuers of men, ſome mounted on bulls, others on rams, and others on fiſhes, peacocks and *Braminy* kites, with a variety of other extravagant repreſentations of men with enormous heads and large eyes, and a number of hands and arms projecting out from their bodies, with figures repreſenting demons, with horns to their heads and claws to their hands and feet, and wings to their bodies, with the ugliеſt aſpects can be conceived, all

which were characters taken out of the *Hindoo*'s holy writ. The *Vidam* and *Shaſtra* which matters were learnedly expatiated on by my *Banyan* and a *Bramin* belonging to the *Pagoda*, that accompanied me as a virtuoſo and antiquarian, to explain the inſcriptions that were written under many pieces of ſtatuary, and tell me in brief, the names and hiſtories of the various idols with which the walls of this Indian temple were inveſted; that he did indeed extremely to my ſatisfaction. From this gallery I had a nearer view of the upper part of the Pagoda, that diminiſhed by degrees into a point, in about the proportion of the pictures of the pyramids of Egypt. On the top of which pyramid was a large gilt copper flat-rim forming a circle of about four feet diameter, traverſed croſs wiſe with two other flat pieces of gilt copper, the ſame dimenſions of the outward rim, which was fixed with its plain perpendicular to that of the horizon (facing the eaſt) on an iron rod, meaſuring ten feet from a gilded ball it paſſed through. On the upper part of this circle was a figure, reſembling a trident, with this difference, that it had five prongs on which were inſcribed five black letters, in the character of the *Shaſtrah*, which were the initials of five myſterious cabaliſtical names, viz. *Shey Ou Dee Ou Deè*, the ſenſe of which is only known to the *Bramins*; and every cupola, dome or ſpire, belonging to the building, had theſe prongs on their tops, or the holy leaf of the *Peepal* tree—a tree held in ſuch veneration amongſt the *Hindoos* that they never wound its body or preſume to pluck a leaf from its boughs; only daring to take them up when they fall, or are blown down by the wind: and as a greater argument of the important lights it is conſidered in by theſe people, a *Gentoo* to ſwear by this leaf, whether the oath he takes be adminiſtered to him by a *Bramin* in a court of judicature, or on a leſs public occaſion,

occaſion, it is held as ſacred as though he had ſworn by the holy water of the *Ganges*.

The large pillars that went round the building were much in the ſame ſtile as thoſe ſmall ones I have already deſcribed, forming lofty and ſpacious Varandos on all ſides of the Pagoda. In the four ſides of the building were four porticoes, ſupported by eight pillars on each ſide, projecting out from the range of their reſpective calonades, ſquare with the flights of ſteps that lead up to the platform on which the main body of the building ſtood with balconies and cupaloes over them.

In the centre of the middle chapel there was erected an altar, on which ſtood the figure of a bull ſitting, with four ſmall bull calves at the corners, in butting poſitions: the *Gentoos* worſhiping theſe idols, it is cuſtomary for them to accompany their adorations with offerings of *Ghee*, milk, honey, cream, ſugar, ſweet-meats and money, which offerings being brought from all parts adjacent to the *Pagodas*, by the inhabitants, a conſiderable quantity of donations daily are accumulated, which monies and vegetable food theſe inanimate bulls and calves having no need of, fall to the lot of more rational creatures, viz. *Bramins*, who frequent, and in a manner reſide in theſe places of worſhip, a part of which will be beſtowed by them on the *Byraghees* that occaſionly viſit theſe temples, and make them places of temporary abode. Fronting the entrance of the middle chapel was a gygantic figure of *Jagernaut*, to whom the *Pagoda* is dedicated, and in niches in the other ſides of it, were, in a leſs proportion, the repreſentation of the various births, lives, and tranſmigrations of *Chriſnou Swamey*, from his firſt being born of a woman, and then tranſmigrated into a hog, and from that into a fiſh, until his tranſlation to heaven according to the *Shaſtrah*.

Without the whole pile of building on the angles of the eſplanade were four elegant little *Pagodas*, in the form of Pentagons, with gilded ſpires and prongs on their tops, reſembling thoſe on the larger pyramid. Having ſufficiently ſatisfied my curioſity in the examination of this temple, accompanied by my Banyan and a few attendants, I proceeded in my *Palanquin* to Chandernagore, the head ſettlement belonging to the French, in Bengal, where I was received with politeneſs by monſ. Jean Babtiſt Chevalier, the then governor, and ſome gentlemen of his factory; and paſſed from thence to Chinchura, the firſt Dutch preſidency in Bengal, and met my Budgero and people at Hughly, a large town belonging to the Nabob, about four coſs to the northward of Chandernagore, where reſides a *Fazdar*.—This city is ſituated on the banks of the river it gives name to; it is very populous, but the ſtreets irregular, and the houſes in general in decay; but commanding a paſs, the Nabob, and Company, have their *Choques* there to examine the Duſtocks, and take duties,—the latter having erected a battery there to command reſpect, as it is one of the greateſt thorough-fares by land and water between Calcutta and Patna. All the *Burrs* laden with ſalt, tranſient Budgeroes, *Dinghees* and fleets of boats laden with goods, going up or coming down the river Hughly, being obliged to ſend off a Nabob's or Company's *Duſtock*, or hawl along ſide the gott, and be examined by the *Choques*, fixed there to collect the cuſtoms. It being about ſun ſet when I arrived there, I quit my *Palanquin* and went on board my *Budgero*, where I had not been long before a *Chubdar* from the *Fazdar* brought in his maſter's *Sallam* with a cuſtomary preſent, called in India *Meerſmahny*; conſiſting of goats, fowls, eggs, ghee, butter, ſugar, milk, fruit, ſweet-meats, and twenty rupees in caſh.

This

This cuſtom of ſending preſents to travellers of any credit, from the chief man of the town, on the firſt of their arrival, in proportion to the rank they diſcover they bear, is as ancient as laudable, as invariably obſerved throughout Indoſtan by both Mahometans and Gentoos, who daily ſend eatables to their reſpective places of worſhip in the towns or villages they belong to, for the ſupply of the various tribes of itinerant *Fakirs*, or pilgrims and fanatics, who traverſe the boundaries of this extenſive empire, viz. *Hadgees*, *Hafuſts*, *Taveegewallas*, *Hackeems*, amongſt the Muſſulmen, and amongſt the Hindoos, *Bramins*, *Byraghees*, *Bambollahnautmen*; either of which ſects, without infringing on the rigid precepts of their reſpective religions, by which means, from the mouth of the great Ganges to the weſternmoſt limits of Indoſtan, a diſtance of fifteen hundred miles, and from Cape Comorin, the ſouthern promontory of this empire, to the foot of the mountains of Thibet, in length two thouſand miles, can the wearied traveller find a place to repoſe in, and ſuſtenance as well as the wealthy merchant, or *Sardar*, in this country, who though pagans and infidels, their predominant characteriſtics notwithſtanding, are unparalleled urbanity and hoſpitality.

After returning my compliments to the *Faſdar*, it being new moon, which had juſt made its appearance, my *Munſy*, *Banyan* and attendants, with their hands ſpread out and *Rupees* in them, looking up to the lunar orb, began to mutter (the Muſſulmans in Arabic, and the *Gentoos* in the language of the *Shaſtrah*) prayers, ſeemingly of congratulations for the return of this brilliant concomitant; when the Muſſulmans, as uſual, beginning their prayers with the words *biſſimallah! nirrouhah, alloim!* and ending aloud with the words *an ſharlot allah!* whilſt the Gentoos called out as loud in the language of the *Shaſtrah*,

kriſnou govendro ram ram! hurreekus houry houry!— This done they *ſallamed* me, and my *Banyan*, on the part of the *Gentoos*, preſented me with a ſtem of Indian corn, and the Muſſulmans with a ſaucer full of grated cheeſe and ſugar candy; which carries this emblem with it, that ſalt and ſweets go together; whilſt the *Gentoo* gifts implies a wiſh for the increaſe and multiplying the human ſpecies. After this the *Moſſalljees* lighted their *moſſalls*, and my *Banyan*, *Munſy* and attendants, ſallamed me anew and retired. The new moon as one of the moſt adjacent and conſpicuous orbs in the creation, the Aſiatics, both Mahometans and Gentoos, celebrate its appearance with remarkable ſolemnity, making it as a general rule when night comes on to light their lamps, tapers and flambeauxs, and at the ſame time to pay their compliments to their maſters. I was at laſt left alone but ſoon interrupted by the appearance of a well dreſſed, handſome fellow, perhaps twenty years of age, who bruſhing by the *Chubdar* and a *Seapoy* that attended, and preſented me with a *Rupee* as a *Nazur*, which I accepted, and aſking his buſineſs, he was interrupted in his anſwer by the harſh language and frowns of my *Chubdar* and a *Seapoy*; who diſpleaſed perhaps more at his having got acceſs to me without a ſilver paſs, than at his audacity in approaching without their leave, began to reprimand him, and were for turning him out, but I detained him and bid them deſiſt, when my ſervants interfering again, notwithſtanding the countenance I had already ſhown this fellow, and provoked with the buſineſs they knew he had come upon, told me he was a *Burawwaw*, i. e. a pimp, and that I muſt permit them to drive him away, when without any further ceremony they diſmiſſed him, by which viſit I diſcovered the large cities in Indoſtan were no more than thoſe in Europe deſtitute of Mercuries for the negociation of buſineſs carried on incognito.

No. 11.

OLIVER **********, esq; in the Temple, London.

Plassey Garden-House.

I WAS happy to understand by your letter from Blackheath that my *Hooker* got safe as I directed, and that you received the little alcoran, the piece of the *Shastrah*, and Mallabar letter, written with an iron skewer on a couple of palm leaves, that I sent you; they will serve you as specimens of their writing and the different characters they use, until an opportunity offers to transmit you some account of their language. I repent I did not address my letters to but one person alone, instead of distributing them amongst a number of my acquaintance; but that would have prevented my keeping my promise with them all. Should they swell out big enough to form a little volume—should I live to return to the Western Hemisphere, perhaps I may publish them. In the interim they must remain in different hands as directed. I was relating the account of my passage from Calcutta to Hugly, by land and water, where I had arrived, and remained all night with a few *Seapoys* and attendants, in boats on a branch of a survey I had set off to assist in. In the morning by day light, the boats cast loose and tracted up the river, and next morning arrived at the place I date my letter from.

On my arrival at the Gott I saw a greater number of people than ordinary in a cluster, a little above the landing, when I took a walk to the spot to see on what occasion they had gathered together; it was a *Gentoo*, a man of the *Bramin* cast, who had died about an hour before, whose corps they had conveyed to the water side, to perform his obsequies

rites

rites over a pile, which was made of dry ſticks and pieces of *Bamboo* that was about five feet above the ground, in the conſtruction of which a kind of order ſeemed to have been aimed at, by their having laid the ſticks as nigh as they could in ſquares, and croſſed them with others in the diagonals; the lower part of which pile was limited by two long *Bamboos* and two ſhort ones, forming a long ſquare, and between this bottom and the top were parallel to thoſe at equal intervals, two ſets more of ſuch *Bamboos* placed in the like manner, and another correſpondent ſet of *Bamboos* above all, which were faſtened with lines leading acroſs the main body of the pile. On this was laid the corps extended, and an earthen pot, filled with water that having been mixed with the water of the holy *Ganges*, became by confluence and adoption both related to the ſacred ſtream. The widow and her children, with all the female relations, ſtood apart on the left ſide of the hill, and the male relations oppoſite to them on the right ſide: a *Bramin* then pulled off his *Lungah*, as did the eldeſt ſon of the deceaſed, (a boy about 11 years of age) when both he and the *Bramin*, after pouring the water out of their *Loutahs* over their heads and bodies, and making libations by pouring water likewiſe into the river, and ſome into the palms of their hands, muttering in a low key, with great precipitation at the ſame time, a number of words, and at intervals holding their hands towards the ſun, and locking the backs of their hands together by interlinking their fingers and thumbs in the manner baſkets are begun at the making of their handles, and forming therewith a variety of circumplications, which part of the ceremony over, the *Bramin*, with an air of true ſolemnity, addreſſing himſelf to Bogwan, i. e. the ſupreme God, with his eyes and hands directed towards heaven, expatiated in truly philoſophic terms, on the

ſhortneſs

ſhortneſs of life—the certainty of death—the expediency of making the moſt of our time, and improving the gifts of nature, by the contemplation of ſublime things and the conquering our paſſions, that when tranſmigrated into another body; whether the body of a reptile, a bird, or a beaſt, which ever it ſhould pleaſe *Bogwan*, the ruler of all things, to ſend the fugitive ſoul into, by having been habituated to reſtriction it might undergo the next change with leſs pain or uneaſineſs, which in compariſon to the changes that have already happened, in created exiſtencies ſince the creation, and future ones that would take place before the ultimate and general tranſlation of ſouls into celeſtial bodies and claſſes; and conjunction of ſpirits was no more than a grain of ſand compared to the mountains of ſand that line the ſeas and dreary deſarts. It behoved man, as he had obſerved, to be prepared for ſuch viciſſitudes, that by a ſpeedy gradation of purifications, obtained by the obſervance of the above precepts, they might the ſooner attain to perfect felicity, as the ſoul was immortal and incapable of annihilation, and would in the end join with *Bogwan*, the creator of all things. The ſimilarity of which doctrine to that contained in the metempſychoſis of Pythagoras, render it highly probable to have originated therefrom; which oration over, the Bramin whiſpered the ſon of the deceaſed in the ear, who immediately took from one of the company, with his left hand that he put behind his back, a whiſp of ſtraw, whilſt in the other hand he held a fire brand, both which he kept apart by extending his arms at the full length; when the Bramin taking a new *Gennouy*, or Bandelier, that he took from off his own neck and ſhoulders, and putting it over the departed Bramin's, he took the earthen pot of holy water, ſpringled him with it, and daſhing it afterwards into the river, made a ſignal to light the

pile, which the youth did in an inſtant, on which the relations and friends approaching, each throwing an handful of roſin mixed with frankincenſe, on it, while the *Bramin* called out aloud, Hourrykas, Hourrykas, *Kriſnou Govendro, Ram Ram,*—which words, the ſpectators all joining in and repeating, amidſt theſe invocations, the pile rapidly taking fire, the corps preſently burnt up to cinders, and the company went ſinging a plaintive ſong to the houſe of the deceaſed.

No. 12.

GEORGE CHAPMAN, eſq; Athy, in Ireland.

Muxedabads, the capital of Bengal.

YOUR curioſity has been excited at my relating to you the manner the Spaniards fight the bulls at Barcelona, Valentia, Malaga, and other parts in Spain; I will now give you an account of a fight I was witneſs to laſt week, of elephants, rhinoceroſes, tygers, and wild buffaloes. The *Nabob* was viſited by a brother of the *Nizam*, and ſome other men of diſtinction from the Decan, at the ſame time, and meaning to compliment them with an elephant fight, amongſt other diverſions he gave orders to that effect, and preparations were made accordingly. At the foot of the city of Muxadabads runs a little river that divides it from Moradbaugh, a village on the oppoſite ſhore, remarkable for the number of beautiful gardens and pleaſure houſes of former Nabobs and great men, viz. Jaggertſeet, reputed to be the richeſt banker in the world, and other opulent men, living and deceaſed. In the kingdom of Bengal, on the eaſtern ſide of this rivulet, ſtands the killah

killah or palace of the Soubah, a large pile of buildings, or rather concatenation of buildings, conſtituted of a number of large courts or ſquares that contains the *Zunnannahs*, *Seapoys* barracks, parks of artillery, arſenals, ſtables, and elephant ſtands, and all the different offices belonging to the *Sircar* of the *Soubah*; fronting which rivulet, over a gateway, were a number of galleries and a large balcony that had communication with one of the *Soubah*'s preſence-chambers; oppoſite to which, on the other ſide of the river, was a ſandy plain about half a mile in length and one eighth in breadth, bounded by a ſtout high garden-wall that ran partly parallel to the edge of the river, perpendicular to which a line of houſes run down to the waterſide, which with ſeveral horſemen, and men on camels, and footmen together, that were aſſembled on the ſouthernmoſt part of the plain, formed an oblong ſquare in the front of the oppoſite palace; the inſide of which being reſerved for the combatants, it was kept clear by the horſemen, who kept galloping up and down for that purpoſe; which crowd with the populace on the top of the garden walls, and thoſe that filled the windows and apartments of the houſes to the northward, and the balcony and galleries of the palace, comprehended the whole number of ſpectators, and compoſed an amazing concourſe of people. The combat was to begin at eight o'clock in the morning, at which time the *Soubah*, magnificiently dreſſed, appeared with his company, and *Aumeers* attending him, in the balcony deſcribed; when the *nobut* that had been playing ceaſed, and a diſcharge of artillery was made, it being the concerted ſignal for the fighting elephants to begin the combat; a female elephant, by her driver, was then puſhed on to the middle of the plain, when two large elephants from oppoſite ſides of the ſquare, made their appear-

ance:

ance: theſe elephants had, previous to this recountre, been painted, after firſt being well waſhed and ſcrubbed with pumice ſtone in the river, whilſt lying on their ſides; which operation theſe creatures (fond of wallowing in water) conform to with alacrity and pleaſure; after which being expoſed to the ſun, their ſkins drying and growing hot, they rubbed them with linſeed-oil, which the heat of their bodies ſoon abſorbing, they painted them from head to foot with a ſhining jet black, that as ſoon as laid on dried up, and was ſo fixed a colour that though rubbed hard with clothes afterwards left ſcarcely a ſtain thereon. I was witneſs to this ſcrubbing and painting match, and took notice of the proceſs. This ground work laid on the whole ſuperficies of the creatures, two painters with their pencils, beginning juſt below the upper part of their heads, completed conſpicuous ornamental circumferences about thoſe parts, reſembling laurel, muric, or civic crowns. Circles of different colours were likewiſe drawn round their eyes, with well defined edges, and large broad ſtreaks of vermillion drawn from thence down to the extremeties of their trunks, and the inſides of their ears painted with the ſame colour, which added conſiderably to the fierceneſs of their aſpects. Their heads and bodies thus painted, ſcarlet cloth or crimſon velvet coverings, fringed and embroidered with gold, were thrown over their bodies and ſecured from falling off by girths faſtened under their bellies. Each elephant had a bell about the ſize of a half gallon pot, ſuſpended to a broad leather collar, right under his neck, with round bells of different ſizes fixed at convenient diſtances from the large bell, towards the upper part of his head, on the ſame collar: theſe bells are both of ornament and uſe, for chiming when the elephants enter a *buzar* or a town, they give warning of their approach,

approach, and give people time to take their children out of their way, and to avoid them themſelves if they think proper, as notwithſtanding their remarkable ſagacity and docility, amidſt multitudes of people tricks being plaid them, the creatures at times reſent the affronts, and kill or maim the unwary inhabitants.

The elephants thus painted and decorated, the drivers preſented themſelves to them, in order to mount, when the beaſts knowing their duty, gently extending their trunks downwards in a curve, with a ſtriking dexterity clapping them under the hams of theſe their drivers, gave them each a ſucceſsful cant on to the back of their heads; when they fixing themſelves to their conveniencies, by ſtriding over the necks of the elephants, when their legs and thighs were ſcreen'd by the elephants ears, as large at leaſt as ſmall round tea-tables. Theſe drivers were both ſtout perſonable men, well dreſſed and armed in the ſtile of the country, with additional weapons in their hands called *punjahs*, about the length of ſhips boat-hooks, and pointed ſharp enough to wound their elephants on the top of their heads, which purpoſes alone they apply them to when they prove diſobedient or refactory, and to menace them with occaſionally on the march.

The drivers thus mounted, with their *punjahs* uplifted, and their right hands to their left ſides, forming bows, in an oſtentatious manner as they paſſed their elephants on and urg'd them to the charge, who prepared for the fight, in an inſtant faced each other, and irritated with the ſpirits they had given them before they had left their ſtands, and jealous of each others approaches to the female ſhewn to them on the ground, the riders with both hands ſeizing the iron *punjahs* and driving them into the fleſh on the top of the creatures heads, and renewing

ing their blows, while at every ſtroke the blood ſpouted out and trickled down their cheeks, which added to their fury, they ruſhed on towards each other with the moſt violent impetus, their drivers in approaching, before the attack, reciprocally ſaluting, by lifting their right hands up to their heads and calling out in Arabic *aſſallam allycam! allycum ſallam!*

Matters in this poſition, the people on foot who formed great part of the ſouthernmoſt ſide of the ſquare to ſecure themſelves againſt any ſudden attack of the engaging elephants, began to draw off and gain the tops of the garden walls, the adjacent moſques and dwelling houſes, and horſemen, and men with wheel rockets, which they kept playing, who were employed for that purpoſe, kept a continual driving up and down in the front of that line of people that formed the ſouthernmoſt barrier to the field already noticed, in order to prevent the crowd from approaching too near whilſt the animals ſhould be engaging.

No. 13.

To the same.

Mordabaugh.

THE ſpectators more uſed to theſe fights than myſelf, formed, I diſcovered earneſt and different ideas of the determination of the battle, and laid wagers accordingly: two parties ſubſiſted, one in favour of the Aurangabad elephant, and one in favour of the Gorackpore elephant; two places whoſe vicinities are famous for good elephants. The Gorackpore elephant was a ſize ſmaller than the other, but ſeemed poſſeſſed with more activity though leſs craft, and the expectations of the crowd were raiſed to a conſiderable pitch when the attack began, in the manner following:

The larger elephant being on the level of the plain, while the ſmaller one was on the declevity of an hillock, the big elephant ran one of his fangs into his mouth, that in the puſh paſſed through the fleſhy part of his cheek under the ear, and hooking him at the ſame time with the other tuſk under one of his hams, got himſelf ſo entangled that notwithſtanding his repeated endeavours to overſet him, he failed in his attempt; when the other elephant taking the advantage of a ſtumble his opponent made with one of his fore feet (that buried itſelf up to the middle of the leg in a ſand hole) expeditiouſly ran him through the gullet with one of his tuſks, and ſet him in a gore of blood. All this while their trunks, like two ropes, were twiſted in one, and thus entangled together they ſeeſawed backwards and forward for the ſpace of about five minutes, beweltered in blood, and their eyes ſwelled with the diſtention of their trunks, and the agony it put them in, to ſuch a degree they appeared as though they would burſt in their heads; while their ſtrength and ſpirits waſted with fatigue, the pain of their wounds

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and the great loſs of blood they had ſuſtained, they ſtood ſtock ſtill for perhaps another five minutes, panting and puffing, and blowing ſo loud that the ſound of their reſpiration was diſtinguiſhable amidſt even the din and clamour of the ſurrounding populace; notwithſtanding which enfeebled ſtate, they vigorouſly maintained their hold, in order, apparently, to recruit their wind and ſpirits, that they might be the better enabled to begin the combat anew; while at intervals the drivers calling out to their elephants aloud by their reſpective names, to hold out to the laſt, and never yield while there was breath in their body, for the honor of their illuſtrious maſter the *Souhah*, and his ſubjects the ſpectators, both drivers, laterly with their *punjahs* pricking the heads of their reſpective elephants (already like honeycomb with the holes that had been made in them in the courſe of the action by theſe weapons) both unable to bear the repeated ſtabs of the *punjahs*, and the excrutiating pain they indured by this rude circumplication of each others trunks, after making two moſt hedious roars, with obvious repugnance let go each others trunks, and afterwards with as great a reluctance withdrew their formidable fangs from the bloody inciſſions they had made in each others bodies (hitching back at the ſame time, and watching each others motions with unremitted attention) when the rider of the ſmaller elephant urging his beaſt to the charge again, they both by this time being reinforced with wind and ſpirits, he advanced with tolerable celerity towards his antagoniſt, who inſtead of facing him, turned from him and ran as hard as he could drive towards that part of the plain that was barrier'd by the concourſe of the people above mentioned, and getting amongſt the thick of them before they could get out of his way, both men and horſes he ſcooped up

with

with his tuſks and toſſed over his head with the ſame facility a cat would as many mice, until the elephant in purſuit of him having come up with him, he turned round to face him, and a freſh combat enſued, when (as theſe animals are very apt to do on confronting) they receded back ſome few fathoms, in order to join with the greater force on renewing the attack, then puſhing on towards each other with ſeeming greater violence than ever, the ſmaller elephant with his trunk circumflected round a tooth, the better to ſecure it perhaps from danger, which gave him an arch look and made him appear the more formidable, with remarkable activity on meeting his antagoniſt, after giving a loud roar, run his other tooth down the throat of his enemy with ſuch ſucceſs that its point came out below the ſhoulder blade, brought him to the ground, and killed him dead on the ſpot; when the other elephant was ſurrounded by horſemen, who felicitating his driver on the conqueſt, conducted him to the front of the balcony where the *Soubah* and his nobles were ſeated, when both the victorious elephant and his driver, ſaluted the *Nabob* in form, attended by this eſcort and a *Chubdar* on horſeback in the front, announcing his *ſallam* and the creatures, they both paying their compliments at the ſame time, the *Fazdar**, as uſual, by lifting up his hand to his head, and the elephant by inverting his proboſcis and bending it backwards over his own head and the drivers, three times, and giving loud roars at each incurvation of his trunk.

Any injuries done to individuals by the elephant on the day of the fight, the Soubah ordered ample reſtitution to be made, and ſaw it done himſelf, by having called into his preſence the relations of thoſe people who had been killed or maimed in the conflict;

* A title given to the conquering elephant's driver.

fliɛt; when the evening was appointed for a main of cocks to be fought, and little *lells*, and a battle of antelopes and fighting rams,—while which orders were going forward ſeveral other diverſions were carried on, on the plain; boys, Gentoos and Moors, all richly armed and dreſſed, mounted on Arabian and Perſian ſteeds, with bows and arrows ſlung over their ſhoulders, without any thing on their horſes but cloths and ſilk nets fringed with gold or ſilver, circling round the plain in different parties, made ſham attacks on each other, ſometimes with javelins, at others with ſcymitars, and at others with their battle-axes; whilſt ſome extending themſelves on their backs, with their heads on their horſes rumps, would draw their bows charged with arrows, and bring down with them hawks, kites, and vultures hovering above them in the air: when two elephants making their appearance, and ſhutterwans, viz. armed eameliers, and dividing themſelves into two diſtinɛt parties, ruſhed on towards each other with their drawn ſwords, which flouriſhing and claſhing together, after diſcharging a ſhower of arrows over each other's heads, diſperſed; when followed by the horſes, the elephants with their drivers on their necks, menacing them at times with their *punjahs*, and at others encouraging them with fair words, plunged into the river with the whole of the cavalry; when the elephants diſporting themſelves in the ſtream, encompaſſed with the ſquadrons of horſe and ſhutterwans, ſhewed their remarkable craftineſs by filling their trunks with water they had ſucked up with them as they ſwam along, and ſpouting it out again at times, like grampuſes, up in the air, and wetting the adjacent horſemen with the ſhowers of it as it fell again; and at others, when nigh enough to do execution, blowing a quantity ſmartly in the faces of any two or three horſes and their riders,

riders, who happened to be within the limits of their humorous caſcaſes. The coaſt clear, the flying army had no ſooner gained the river than a number of paper kites ſuddenly were ſeen flying in the air, different in their conſtruction from ſuch as are made in Europe, which had been mounted by boys who were diſperſed in different parts of the plain, handſomely dreſſed with ſcymiters by their ſides and poignards in their waſtebands or ſaſhes: and others in that of dragons or land or ſea monſters, made of the fineſt tranſparent paper, painted, varniſhed and gilt, with glittering tails of the ſame materials, that mounted to conſiderable heights, and hovering over the river, palaces and plains, to me was a ſight as pleaſing as novel.

No. 14.

The Miſs CHAPMAN's in general, at Caſtle-Michel and Caſtle-Raben, near Athy.

LADIES, I have been deſcribing to Mr. Chapman, the diverſions I was witneſs to yeſterday forenoon, which letters there is no doubt but you have ſeen and will impart to thoſe of your acquaintance, with whom I correſpond.

The heat of the day coming on the *Soubah* retired within the walls of his palace, and the ſpectators withdrew to their reſpective homes, whoſe example I followed by going to my friend's at Moradbaugh, an Engliſh captain, commanding two battalions of Seapoys in this department. This gentleman had been ſome years in the country, ſpoke the Indoſtan language perfectly well, and was even a critic in it; and initiated along while into the ways of the natives, whether Gentoos or Mahometans; likewiſe of a ſatirical turn, and a young fellow of excellent wit and

finiſhed education, proved an agreeable companion, and was, during my ſtay at Muxadabads of great ſervice to me, in his informations reſpecting the country.

In the cool of the evening we returned to the place of action, in a few minutes after which the Nabob, with his viſiters and aumeers, appeared again in the ſame balcony they did in the morning, on which a rhinoceros, and an elephant prepared for battle, were brought forth, who on the ſight of each other, inſtantly approaching, begun with the utmoſt fury to engage. The elephant, at the firſt onſet, overſetting the rhinoceros in ſcringing back to get ſufficient play for his teeth, which were at leaſt between eight and nine feet long, he being a very large elephant, and upwards of ten feet in height, and proportionably ſtrong and robuſt, and in appearance double the magnitude of his foe, but failing in his attempt by only helping the unweildly animal up by lifting him bodily with his teeth, that he ran compleatly under him, inſtead of through his vitals as he intended; the recovered brute, with all his might, ruſhing his head under the elephant's belly, in order to rip it open with the horn that projected out from his forehead (which is always the rhinoceros's play when engaging his common enemy the elephant) he continued poking at his antogoniſt's guts, having got at laſt both his head and ſhoulders between the elephant's hind legs, which being out of the reach of the elephant's teeth, giving him pain without his being able to diſengage himſelf.

Provoked with his ſituation, he gave three ſudden ſucceſſive roars, followed by a violent jerk of his whole body backwards, which bringing the rhinoceros in front, with an incredible rapid puſh of one of his teeth, he maimed him to ſuch a degree, that unable to continue longer the fight, he turned tail and marched

marched off, and left him maſter of the field, amidſt the ſhouts and acclamations of the crowd; when he was conducted by an eſcort in the ſame manner the conquering elephant had been in the forenoon to ſalute the Soubah his ſovereign lord and maſter. The rhinoceros I have been treating of, though deſcribed in the encyclopedia, and by writers of natural hiſtory, as an animal not ſo generally known as many others of a leſs note, I will, before I proceed in my account of the diverſions I have promiſed in my letters, ſay ſomething about this creature. The head of a rhinoceros has reſemblance to both a camel's and a boar's, and ſo thick the bone of his ſcull that it will repel a muſket ball, or the blow of an ax; but diſproportionate to his body, which with his legs and thighs reſemble much an elephant's: upon his forehead grows a horn, turning inwards towards his ears, to which his forehead is a baſe, this horn being about ſix inches in diameter below that part of it that coheres to his face, and ſeven inches in length, terminating gradually from the baſe to a point; which horn though not very large is very ſolid and ſtubborn and is the only weapon he has to truſt to for offence or defence, except his hide, which is a compleat coat of mail, nature having provided this animal with, above all others known in the creation, the moſt redoubtable barriers againſt the miſſive weapons of men, or the formidable talons and voracious jaws of other beaſts, an hard knobby cruſt of ramifications and thick impenetrable ſcales covering the ſuperfices of his hide, excepting his belly and lower parts, that, though retained within a ſkin of an inch thick, and of a more glutinous and elaſtic nature than that of even a buffaloe's, lies expoſed to the wound of ſhot and pointed weapons. His food is vegetable, and when kept up a while, he will grow docile and pacific; and his horn is ſaid to be ſo certain

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an antidote, that liquor even drank out of it, though mixed with poiſon, will have no fatal effects.

After this engagement, I obſerved the multitude ſuddenly broke the line they had formed on the ſouth ſide of the plain, and were contending who ſhould gain the banks of the river firſt, till by degrees thouſands of ſpectators aſſembled on both ſides. The ladies of the ſeraglio had been taking a party of pleaſure on the water, and were then returning in their *Budgeroes*. A fleet of theſe Budgeroes, or Indian barges with about three hundred boats of different ſizes and conſtruction, appeared on the river winding into that branch of it that ran between Muxadabads and the oppoſite ſhore, that I amongſt the reſt of theſe ſpectators ſtood on. Theſe boats formed a three diſtinct diviſions, viz.——front, centre and rear. In the centre of each diviſion was a large *Budgero*, commanding the reſt, and in the centre of the middle diviſion, ſeven of greater magnitude, the middle of which was at leaſt as big again as the *Budgeroes* in general amongſt the whole. The leſſer boats were painted *Dinghees* and *Moor Punkies* with little *Kiſties* attending them, and rowing a-head at times, and then dropping a-ſtern, according to the ſignals given from the reſt of the fleet, which ſignals were made by the firing of ſmall braſs cannon from the large *Budgeroes*, and waving particular flags, and from the *Dinghees* and *Moor Punkies* by diſcharging ſeveral guns or large *Burghundaſſes*. In this order divided, they advanced down the river, but the current running againſt them, which was pretty ſtrong, the progreſs they made was but ſlow, whilſt the wind, being contrary, likewiſe which prevented their carrying ſails; it gave good opportunity for examining the form of the boats, the dreſs of the people that managed them, and their mode of conducting them. The *Budgeroes* were all painted and

gilded,

gilded, and decorated with carved work heads and ſterns, with elegant varandos to them, ſcreened by ſilk and ſattin, venetian blinds, and windows of flowered glaſs to the apartments of the *Budgeroes*, that the ladies within ſide might ſee without being ſeen. The tops of the *Budgeroes* were all covered with ſcarlet broad cloth, and fringed with gold, and waiſt cloths and quarter cloths of the ſame. The oars were painted red, and the *Manjies* and *Dandies* were all dreſſed in ſcarlet cloth coats with narrow ſleeves, and long trowſers of the ſame, but different coloured, ſaſhes and turbans, with gold borders and fringes to them, which variety and contraſt in theſe parts of their dreſs had the more pleaſing effect. In this manner were the crews of the *Budgeroes*, *Dinghies* and *Kiſſies* dreſſed, throughout every ſquadron, but the *Manjies* and *Dandies* of the *Moor Punkies*, wore a different garb, and additional ornaments, having all ſcarlet *Jammers* of ſtout linen, and turbans and ſaſhes of the ſame, whoſe extraordinary buſineſſes were to beat time to bands of muſic theſe boats were all furniſhed with.———They had appendages to their dreſs to anſwer that purpoſe, having bells faſtened by bandages round their arms and wriſts, likewiſe acroſs their bodies and round their waiſts, hanging bells in the form of thoſe that are in ſteeples, and others caſt like thoſe that are hung round the necks of ſlay horſes in America, or carriers horſes in Europe. The bandages theſe bells were tacked to were from two to three inches wide, and had tufts of black ſilk ſewed to them, with thick bunches of black horſe hair fixed in ſilver ſockets to their wriſts and elbows, and each *Manjy* and *Dandy*, an ornament of the ſame kind hanging to the back part of his turban.

The largeſt of the *Budgeroes* that was in the centre of the fleet was called the Sultana, on board of which

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was the *Beagum* or queen, and the others were named in general after ladies in the ſeraglio ;—ſhe had twenty-four *Dandies* on a ſide to row her along, making forty-eight in all, with a fore-caſtle that was about twelve feet in length, and a cabbin or accommodations abaft, that reached from the after oar to the ſtem, at leaſt thirty feet, making the Budgero in all about ninety feet long ; on her poop or top of the cabbin were ſeated guards of *Seapoys*, *Peuns*, and *Harkarars*, all handſomely dreſſed, and officers of truſt, with a number of female Arabs, (women in the capacity of menial ſervants) were ſeen going in and out of the Varando of the *Budgero* ; likewiſe eunuchs, young and old, ſuperbly dreſſed and armed, a large band of muſic was on the fore-caſtle, and a quantity of muſicians, more or leſs in every boat, and *Moor Punky* in the fleet The colours that were flying on board the Sultana, were a large ſcarlet ſilk enſign faſtened to the toping-lift of the main-boom, (as ſhe was rigged ſloop faſhion) and in form of the ſection of a cone, ſnipt at the vertical point, that formed two ends, with a pair of black ſheers in the centre: with a large long pendant, that extended by the breeze of wind that was ſtiff, ran beyond the taffel of the Budgero that was in a right line with the Sultana a ſtern, with ſmaller pendants faſtened to the ſame flag-ſtaff, in the ſhape of ſwallows tails, and a large flag on a ſtaff, fixed on the bowſprit, beſides ſeveral enſigns of different colours. Men and boys carried others, faſtened to painted and gilded ſtaffs. The other *Budgeroes* of the fleet were all in the ſame ſtyle that the *Sultana*'s was. The *Dinghies* were open boats painted, and their heads, ſterns and waiſts, covered with cloths of different colours, and filled with people differently dreſſed ; theſe boats belonging to individuals amongſt the inhabitants who had accompanied this fleet in order to take

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their pleaſure had joined in with this fleet, but each boat had at leaſt a muſician on board, and ſome two or three, and ſome a whole band; the boats being near two hundred in all, formed at leaſt two-thirds of the fleet. The *Moor Punkies*, of which there might be fifty of different ſizes, were ſome five or ſix of them 70 feet in length, made like petiauguas, but with high poops and little top-gallant decks or fore-caſtles and prows, ſome of them carrying thirty or forty *Dandies*. Theſe petiauguas or *Punkies* were rowed with paddles (not oars) which were neatly made, about five feet ſix inches long, with blades to them about eight inches wide, and made upon the whole exactly like a ſpatula. The *Kiſties* were a number of ſmall ſkiffs in the form of whale boats, that paſſed to and fro the fleet, and did the buſineſs of tenders for them, and were painted and ornamented like the reſt, on the occaſion.

The fleet thus in three diviſions having gained the front of the palace, all hauled into the ſhore, where a large elephant with a ſilver turret on his back, with columns of ſolid gold and incruſtations of diamonds, made his appearance, with *Pelanquins*, *Doolies*, and *Hackerries*, on the water ſide, to convey the ladies of the ſeraglio, to their reſpective apartments, when, the ſun going down, orders being given for a ſalute, a diſcharge of artillery was made from the walls of the Killah; platoons were fired by the Seapoys drawn up along ſhore, and a general diſcharge of all the guns of the *Burgundoſſes* and *Muſketoons* of the *Shutterwans*; which being anſwered by the guns on the oppoſite ſide at Moradbaugh, made what might with great propriety be called, a *feu de joye*, which ceaſing when the ſun-ſet, the ladies, covered with ſcarlet cloths, were huddled into their equipages, and conveyed through different avenues into the palace; when the multitude quitting this ſcene of diſſipation

on hearing the ſound of *Allah*, which is God, echoing from the battlements of the moſques, and from the pagodas of the Gentoos, that of Bogwan, they withdrew to their reſpective places of worſhip, or falling proſtrate on the ſpot they were then ſtanding on, joined in with the common invocations made to heaven, and concluded the day in prayer; for no buſineſs whatever is carried on by thoſe people without calling on the name of God both at the beginning and ending of it, throughout the empire.

No. 15.

To the same.

Moradbaugh, facing Muxedabads.

THE day thus ended, I returned with my friend to his place of reſidence, as uſual, and after refreſhing ourſelves (which indeed we were in want of) a *Chubdar* coming in with the compliments of the *Soubah* to this captain, inviting him to the entertainments of the evening; and underſtanding by him that there were to be illuminations and fire-works, (beſides a grand *Notch*) that were to be exhibited before the public, my friend declining the viſit, and returning his compliments to the *Nabob*, accompanied by my *Banyan* and *Munſey*, and a few neceſſary attendants, I returned with this *Chubdar*, and croſſing the river, with my ſervants cloſe to me, through the means of the *Nabob's Chubdar*, got a very convenient ſeat in the front of a balcony that commanded a proſpect of the ſquare the principal diverſions were to be exhibited in, and faced exactly a ſpacious Varando the *Nabob* and his company were to be ſeated in, with a *Muſnud* erected for the *Soubah*; a dif-

a difference being paid me on account of the character I appeared in, of an Engliſh gentleman, which put me upon a footing with a *Soubah* or *Rajah*, and above any other Mahometan or Gentoo in the realm. The whole palace was illuminated within ſide and without with gilded and painted candles and lamps, that were placed ſo thick that the windows, niches, and arches of the building, were in a manner covered with them; beſides a number of glaſs and iſinglaſs lanthorns, of various colours and ſizes, and of as many different forms; ſome repreſenting Pagodas, and others barges, ſuſpending in the air, with candles and lamps burning; both without ſide and within a number of trophies, enſigns and pendants, and embroidered cloths and velvets were ſpread at intervals over the balluſtrades; and in the front of the balconies of all the different galleries, up to the battlements of the building, which was lined with ſpectators. On one ſide of this ſquare were ſix or ſeven elephants, richly adorned, with magnificent turrets on their backs, and the ſons of Omrah's and Aumeer's ſitting on them: a guard of *Seapoys* were on each ſide of the gate-way, with braſs cannon pointed acroſs the paſſage, and the intervals of the colonnade that ſupported the lower gallery, crowded with ſpectators of all ages and deſcriptions; whilſt below in the middle of the court, which to me appeared to be one hundred yards ſquare every way, was an amphitheatre, whoſe top ran up to the ſummit of the palace, by means of ſcaffolding that was erected for that purpoſe; the walls of which were emboſſed with various circular, aſteric and gibbous figures of ſulphur, camphire, and other pyrotechanic compoſitions, being intended for an exhibition of fire works, had a ſtage or platform within ſide, level with the middle ſtory of the palace court; and was ſtout enough to bear a number of people on, with a gallery run round

it within ſide and without. This platform which might be twenty yards ſquare, was plained ſmooth and fixed on for the ſpot on which the game cocks and *Lolls* were to fight their battles, while the intervals between this amphitheatre, below on each ſide on the pavement, were deſtined for the battles to be fought between the fighting rams and fighting antelopes.

Theſe princely matters all in readineſs, the *Soubah*'s arrival was announced aloud by the *Chubdars* and eunuchs, who advancing in the front of the Varando, accompanied by his *Omrahs* and *Aumeers*, ſeated himſelf on the *Muſnud*, and received the compliments of the ſpectators in general, and returned the ſame by putting his hand to his head, when the *Peerzadas* calling out, *Dowlat Zadah Bahadar Geeteeo!* that is, Long live and proſper! The words were repeated by the throng in ſuch loud peals the palace trembled with the ſound, which compliments paſſed the amphitheatre, which was illuminated, and a number of cocks brought in, by men in ſhort jackets, to fight a general battle as propoſed; they all belonged to different owners on the ſpot, and being, if not different breeds, were of different coops and ſtands, and as ſtrangers to each other, wherever they ſhould meet would fight; which cocks being let looſe on the platform, at a ſignal given, began with great fury to engage.

Theſe creatures varying in their ſhape conſiderably from European or American fowls of the ſame ſpecies, being of a ſmaller breed and reſembling falcons in their heads and formation of their bodies and limbs, diſplayed as obvious a difference in their ſtrength and ſpirits, both of which they poſſeſs to ſuch a ſuperior degree, that without gaffs or ſteel weapons (the game cocks are armed with amongſt Europeans) they will ſtrike ſuch deciſive blows, that

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in but a ſhort conteſt, a combatant will be ſtruck dead by a blow through his head, the back bone or rump, or ſome vital part, or knocked down and laid ſtruggling at his adverſary's feet, when the vindictive conqueror, not ſatisfied with his conqueſt, or the mere death of his enemy, will ſeize with his talons, the dead or wounded fowl, and by digging them into the fleſh, with the moſt pointed exertions of his whole body and limbs, with his bill and claws together, peck the eyes out of his head, tear a hole in the carcaſs, and pluck out the entrails and heart, and finally, lay it open to the back bone; and exulting in his conqueſt, beſprinkled over with blood, and though wounded himſelf and pricked to the quick, in a majeſtic poſture treading on the mangled carcaſs with his feet, will clap his wings and crow, and proclaim his victory aloud, then walk with as menacing and imperious an air over others in the ſame condition, towards cocks of an oppoſite party, until he meets with one to take up his challenge, and begins a new fight. From this intimation you form ſome idea of the battle that was fought by the cocks brought upon the ſtage of the amphitheatre before the Nabob, when I add that amongſt twelve ſets let looſe upon each other, making about ſixty game cocks in all, who peremptorily engaged and fingling each other out by pairs, fought amidſt a cloud of feathers and ſtreams of blood, 'till only eleven were left ſtanding erect on the place of action, pecking at the mutilated carcaſes of the fowls they had vanquiſhed; ſome of them during the conflict, at times ſpringing up by pairs, to the height of, ſome four, others five, and others ſix feet, before they met each other's heels, or exchanged with their talons their formidable blows; whilſt others in pairs would fall down dead with their talons in each other's ſkulls, or ſome as ſenſitive apart amongſt expiring

cocks gaſping for life, and defending themſelves to the laſt, on their ſides or backs: which ſcene was not a little heightened in its ſanguinary appearance, by the contraſt of ſome milk white cocks amongſt them painted crimſon with the blood of their own wounds, and the gore of other bleeding warriors they were fluttering among and trampling over, which, added to the repeated clapping of wings, and reciprocal crowings of the inveterate incorrigable creatures, made it upon the whole as intereſting and ſtriking a conteſt of animals as I think I ever beheld. Theſe combatants all killed or wounded, excepting the eleven remaining upon their legs in the field, were taken up by their keepers, chucked under the gills, and commended both by them and the ſpectators, for their behavior; and on their being carried off the ſtage, proclaimed unanimouſly *Borrah Bahadars*, by the ſpectators.

This ſcene of action over, the killed and wounded were carried off and thrown to leopards to devour, and the ſtage cleared and covered with *Setringees**, and about twenty cages of *lolls* brought on it by *Chirrouahwallas*§, each cage containing in number a dozen *lolls*. Theſe *lolls* are little birds, a ſize leſs than wrens or indigo birds, but exactly the ſhape of bullfinches, with dark brown feathers, but ſo covered with innumerable red ſpecks that they predominating over the brown ground work of their plumage, has given riſe probably to their being called *lolls*, which ſignifies red, in the Indoſtan language; which birds being as remarkable for fighting as for their beauty and longevity, (ſome of them being known to live, though in cages, twenty years) they are held in eſtimation in India, and amongſt the grandees

* Stout ſtriped cotton carpets, manufactured like canvas, but as thick as ſackcloth,

§ Men employed to attend game birds, and to fight them.

grandees often brought out to fight, as verified on this occaſion. Theſe *lolls* brought on the *ſetringees*, were no ſooner let looſe than like a cloud they roſe from the ſurface of the ſtage, and meeting each other indiſcriminately, friends or foes, cocks or hens, aloof began a battle pell mell, that ſoon demonſtrated to the ſpectators that though with reſpect to birds they were but pigwidgions, they could fight like harpies when put to the teſt, and began to knock each other down by ſcores; whilſt others engaging on the plain, would do a proportionable part of the execution, though ſo ſmothered in their feathers and gore that it appeared ſurprizing to lookers on they could fall on each other but by chance; be that as it will, theſe little annimals had not quit their cages one quarter of an hour before the one half had killed or wounded the other half, and laid them ſprawling on the ſtage.

No. 16.

To the same.

Moradbaugh.

THIS battle over, the antelopes, about twenty in number, and as many rams, were brought in upon the pavement below, tied by the horns with ſilk cords, and held in hand by their keepers until the propoſed ſignal was given for engaging, when they were let looſe at the four angles of the ſquare, and the rams diſpoſed of in the ſame manner at the ſides; the keepers of the latter having plentifully rubbed their noſes with garlic preparatory to the fight, which they pretend ſharpens the ſenſations and has a cephalic effect, and likewiſe making them

ſnort

ſnort and ſneeze, irritates them the more, and fits them the better for action; and thus both parties at liberty, they ruſhed on towards each other with great celerity, the antelopes approaching erecting themſelves on their hind legs that their heads might meet with greater force, while the rams, poſſeſſed of more ſtrength but leſs activity, rencontred in a more quadruped-like manner, receiving the blows of each other's heads in a more horizontal direction, that ſtunning them in general at the inſtant of the point of contact, they remained twiſting each other's heads about with their horns interlocked until the dizzineſs wearing off, the keepers forced them aſunder, and hauling them back to their former diſtances, after a freſh application of garlic, let them return to the charge, when meeting as before with the ſhock of the formidable blows they repeatedly exchanged, made the colonnades and galleries of the whole building rebound, in which manner the engagement was continued (the antelopes with the antelopes, and rams with the rams) for about half an hour, during which time the rams and antelopes both were ſo bruiſed about their heads and faces that their eyes were cloſed up in general, and their mouths and noſes battered and ſwoln to ſuch a degree, that but one mutilated gibbous lump remaining, the original out-lines of their faces were totally deſtroyed, and not the leaſt degree of excentricity diſcernable on them; in which condition the conquering rams and antelopes, with their keepers, had their *Sallam* announced by the *Chubdar* to the *Soubah*, who, returning their compliments, they retired with their parties.

The rams and antelopes taken away, the fire workers called *Attaſh Bagywallas*, in the Indoſtan language, or men who make fire-works, came in with ladders, hammars and nails, and ſeveral mantles of

of various colours and dimenſions, which they tacked up to different parts of the amphitheatre, with other pyrotechnic figures compoſed of ſalt-petre, ſulphur, gun-powder, charcoal, file duſt, camphire, &c. of different forms and ſizes; this done, the ſtage within ſide this pile was taken away, and a diſtinct view obtained through the arches of the whole building, from the pavement to the upper part of it all round; and now nothing remaining but to play off the works with which this edifice were embelliſhed, four men from the battlements of the palace at a ſignal given, with fire brands neatly fixed into the ends of long *Bamboos*, touched the heads and tails of four fiery dragons that were fixed on iron ſpindles oppoſite to each other on the upper part of the amphitheatre, they inſtantly began to turn round upon their reſpective axis, and continued in motion during the exhibition from the extremities of their wings, claws and tails, and all the extravaſated points of their bodies, emitting fires of different colours, and voiding out of their mouths and noſtrils and poſterior parts; likewiſe burning compoſitions, that burſting would ſcatter in cluſters reſembling feſtoons, which with globes of a larger ſize, projected from the mouths of four figures of monſters below that in their flight like ſhells ſent from mortars, burſting with great exploſion, and diſperſing globular fire around, lighted the fuzes of all the works belonging to the pile, and exhibited to the view of the ſpectators a ſcene of novelty, beauty, variety and contraſt, I had never ſeen before. A large blazing orb made to repreſent the ſun, the diameter of a butt, in the centre of the amphitheatre, that filled up the arched intervals of this pile intended for tapeſtry: to the ſides of this pyrotechnic pile diſplayed to great advantage, the variety of exotic and groteſque figures of beaſts,

fiſhes and fowl, and of men, ſome gygantic, and ſome pigmantic, with grottos, groves and caſcades, that cut through the body of the mantles, like flowers or figures on open work in lace, with but little aſſiſtance of the imagination, formed much the appearance of real exiſtances, that the vibration of the mantles occaſioned by the circulation of the air, rarified by the circumambient heat, and the evaporation of the different compoſitions on the ſurfaces of the mantles, did not a little contribute to. This ſun by degrees loſing its brilliancy, and ſetting below an artificial horizon, was extinguiſhed, and the figures on the mantles by this time grown dim and indiſtinct, had vinegar thrown over them and their veſtiges taken down, when a new moon appeared, riſing by degrees above the artificial horizon, and increaſing in meaſure as it was elevated by a pole, till it got to the propoſed height where it reſted, when it appeared like a large full moon with ſpots on it's diſk, amidſt numberleſs conſtellations and aſteriſms, burning as tho' in a firmament around, which with the ſky-rockets flying aloft, and the wheel revolving below, and a number of fire-balls of different magnitudes rowling about this central luminary, helped to ſhow in a conſpicuous light, a number of extramundanian figures vibrating on ſpindles in the different arches and porticoes of the amphitheatre, together with thoſe of copracapellas, or hooded ſnakes and ſerpents, hovering ſeemingly in the air, the wires that ſuſpended them being inviſible to the naked eye, whilſt others were ſpitting fire and brimſtone in all the entrances of the edifice; when the lunar orb diſſipating by degrees, and the circumvolving fires evaporating in ſmoke, theſe nocturnal lights ſuddenly were extinguiſhed by the ſpouting of a caſcade from the body of the obſcured moon, and from water projected from the top of

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every pillar and little ſpire or turret belonging to the amphitheatre, as well as from the heads, tails, and wings of the dragons and ſerpents, who but a few minutes before, had been vomiting fire and brimſtone: the inſide of all theſe columns being hollow, and having a communication with the artificial dragons and other monſters, which water-works playing, as taken notice of from all quarters, and projected up to above the top of the palace, cooling the air and interior part of the ſquare;—theſe diverſions had been carried on while all the *ſerandas* and muſic on the ſpot were playing in concert; at the ſame time the company embraced this occaſion to refreſh themſelves with different meats their ſervants had prepared for them, and to quench their thirſts with ſherbetts, and various beverages this country is remarkable for. Theſe water-works had played half an hour, when they ſuddenly ceaſed, and in leſs than five minutes the whole amphitheatre was taken to pieces and carried off, and the pavement dried up and covered with carpets; when ſets of dancing girls from all quarters appeared with their muſicians and flambeaux, and began a comic opera, which they went through with much in the ſame manner as the dancing girls I deſcribed in my letters to Louiſa ******, and other correſpondents, and finiſhed by twilight; when the Nabob withdrawing, the company broke up, and I croſſed over to Moradbaugh and repoſed myſelf.

No. 17.

To the same.

Morodbaugh Gardens.

BOTH here and at Muxadabads, the ſtreets are crowded with fakirs, muſicians, players, ſingers, and ſportſmen of all caſts and deſcriptions; men, women and children, viz. *bucties*, rope-dancers, tumblers, poſture-maſters, mimicks, gladiators, cudgellers, *pilewans*, puppet-ſhow men, antic goat-men, ſnake-dancers, falconers, &c. one half of which characters, tho' I might have had a curſory view of before, ere now I never was witneſs to their performances, which, tho' matters in themſelves but of meer diſſipation and amuſement, and leſs intereſting perhaps than others of ſimilar purport already tranſmitted to you, as they contribute to diverſify the ſubject, and diſplay more amply the manners and cuſtoms of the people I am about to deſcribe; at all events, I ſhall venture to fill a page or two in the delination of the above characters. The *Bucties* are ſets of dancing boys, who, from various fortuitous means, having fallen into the hands of theſe caſts of people who conduct *notches*, and the like amuſements, and by them adopted as their children, and taught muſic, ſinging and dancing, during their childhood, from the age of about ſeven years, till they arrive to that of about fifteen or ſixteen; they, on being called upon to act the ſame parts in public, or before particular companies as the dancing girls, no boys anſwering the purpoſe of bucties, but ſuch as have delicate features, are well limbed, and are of the lighteſt complexions the country affords:—they are in general exceeding handſome, and when they appear in character, being elegantly dreſſed, and decorated with jewels, they wearing them in their

their noſes, ears, &c. and ornaments of gold or ſilver round their wriſts and ancles, were it not for the obvious diſtinctions of turbans, and the ſaſhes they wear round their waiſts, they would be ſcarce diſtinguiſhed from women. The *Rope-dancers* are compoſed of men, women and children, and by the natives are called *Nutnys*, and are, as well as the tumblers, poſture-maſters, puppet-ſhow-men, and cudgellers, of a dark mulatto complexion; which former and latter performers, both in their exhibitions, differ but little from thoſe of the like denomination in Europe: but the *Pilewans*, a caſt of people whoſe gifts muſt be thoſe of nature, and improved by art, merit more attention. Theſe men in their infancy, are ſelected out of numbers of children, here and there one, on account of the apparent ſtrength of their bodies, contexture of their limbs, and goodneſs of conſtitution; and with the conſent of their parents, in the towns or cities they dwell in, taken as apprentices to *Pilewans* to learn their art, and by degrees become expert in the line of their profeſſion, as eminent wreſtlers or *Pilewans*. To effect which, during the time of their apprenticeſhips, they are kept up and exerciſed as regularly mornings and evenings, as bred horſes are amongſt ſportſmen in England; all acceſs to the fair ſex is denied them during their minority, and as well as intoxicating liquors or fumes, and equally taught to avoid too great a repletion of food, or indulgence in ſleep, they eſteeming the one as productive of indigeſtions and head-achs, and the other of as lethargic effects; by obſerving the regimens proſcribed with reſpect to their diet, they improve their conſtitutions, and acquire additional health and ſtrength to that which nature ſupplied them with at their birth; and being the ſtrongeſt men in the country they live in, are conſequently beſt calcu-

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lated for the feats of ſtrength and activity, which it is their buſineſs to exhibit, in the which they are unparalleled as yet by any other people on the face of the globe; inaſmuch that a boy of ſixteen, that has been under the tuition of *Pilewans*, and habituated to their mode of living and exerciſes, will ſtand in oppoſition to a man in full growth, face him in the field, on the ſod, or on a ſolid pavement, where the falls are more redoubtable and leſs avoidable than on ſoft ground to an unexperienced competitor, and by fending off his paſſes, and repeated efforts to graſp him, and cloſe in with him, by a ſudden and maſterly catch, made at a ſenſitive and muſcular part of the arm with one hand, and by a dexterous application of an elbow in the pit of the ſtomach with another, and of a finger and thumb each in as delicate a part, viz. the one under the gullet, compreſſing the jugular vein, and the other in as cloſe a point of contact with an auricular paſſage, and as ſeaſonable a circumplication of an oppoſite leg and thigh about that of his adverſary, with ſuch incredible impetus, cant him ſlap againſt a ſlab, or the terra-firma they ſtand on, as to lay him ſenſeleſs on the ſpot, and ſometimes to kill him by the fall, by daſhing his brains out againſt the pavement; from which ſpecimen of one of theſe probationary *Pilewan*'s abilities in manual and bodily exerciſes, you may form ſome idea of what muſt be the conteſt when two experienced adepts enter the liſts, in order to try their ſtrength, before their princely maſters and fellow countrymen!

The antic *Goatmen*, who are the next it appears to me on the liſt, are people who make a trade by carrying goats up and down the country to divert the populace; and however inſignificant theſe capricornicular animal's performances may appear to be, one of them alone will bring in money enough

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in his travels to maintain his maſter and a man, beſides a *tatto** to carry the luggage and the aparatus belonging to his profeſſion; which latter article, from the obſervations I made lately on one of theſe itinerant goat's equipages, conſiſted of the following articles, viz. a long *bamboo* to reach the goat when on the top of his pile while playing his antics, with a flag to it; a tripod, with a triangular frame fixed to it, to clap on the goat's head and to ſuſpend cages of birds to, when he mounts with ten cones turned in wood, with ridges round their lower parts, of about two inches broad, and of different diameters, with holes perforated in their bottoms for the reception of ſcrews.

The points of theſe cones terminated in order to connect the whole number of cones together occaſionally, that when ſo connected by means of theſe ſcrews the whole of them might form an obeliſk or pyramidical figure of about thirty feet in height, for the goat to aſcend on when exhibiting before a croud; they having been turned in proportion to the different diameters of the propoſed fabrick; with which apparatus fixed, the pyramid being ſecured to the ground, on it's baſe, by means of long pegs to keep it from tilting when mounted by the goat, and a ſufficient number of ſpectators having aſſembled on the appearance of one of theſe antic goats, ſufficient to encourage the proprietor to begin (which in a country like Indoſtan, remarkable for the addiction of its natives to ſcenes of diſſipation, would it may be ſuppoſed, require no great time to obtain) the tripod is fixed on the goat's head, and three or four cages of little birds hung to it; when with a fringed mantle thrown over his body, which is hung

* Little hobby horſes, in abundance in India; they running up and down the ſtreets and ſuburbs of towns and villages, unowned and unmoleſted.

hung round with bells, he begins. On being ordered to mount the building, and clapping his feet on theſe circumferential ridges that run round the fabrick and form an eſcalade to the whole. Naturally addicted to climb, though but indifferently calculated, from the formation of his body and limbs, for mounting very critical precipices, he pretty expeditiouſly aſcends to the ſummit, which not exceeding the ſpace of the top of an half hour-glaſs, obliging the goat to converge into one cluſter his four feet, in order to get a footing ſolid enough to ſtand on, in that uneaſy poſture and critical ſituation he will remain for ſome time, balancing himſelf one way or the other, by means of the triangles on his head, and the cages of birds ſuſpended to them, and by which he acquires applauſe amongſt the crowd, when he deſcends backwards, on being ordered, and comes down.

The ſnake dancers are men who catch ſnakes while they are young, extract the various poiſons they contain in their jaws, and cheriſhing and habituating them to run out daily to feed, while they played on tubular inſtruments, reſembling hautboys in their ſound, after the ſnakes, repleniſh themſelves with their food, which is generally eggs, milk, and dough made of rye or indian corn, and the carcaſes of ſmall birds or larger fowl: the animals exhilirating in the beams of the ſun, and animated by the impreſſions the different ſounds of the inſtruments have on their nerves, they will circulate in a variety of directions, perambulations, and circumpoſitions, on a graſs plat, or in ſhort any ſurface, and accelerate their ſteps in meaſure to the vivacity of the tune, with a little interlocutory fencuriſagement of their patrons. Some of theſe animals in their dancings adhering to the ſurface of the ground, without ſo much as rearing their heads above it an inch, of which are the black

ſnakes

ſnakes and meadow ſnakes, whoſe bites are not venomous, whilſt others are, for inſtance the *Covra-capel*, or hooded ſnake, and the Covra-manil or ringed ſnake, which former of theſe two are remarkable for carrying his head erect, with one fourth of his body perpendicular to the other part of it, in which poſſeſſion making zig-zags and oſcillatory vibrations of his whole frame, as though it moved upon an axis, paſſing through the angular point of his creſt, at times and at others, advancing progreſſively; in both which evolutions he ſpreads an umbrella,* which nature has ſupplied him with, that participating of a ſimilitude to fins and to wings, as well as anſwering the purpoſes of a ſhade to keep off the intenſity of the ſolar rays, gives him an unparalleled air of vigilance and intrepidity and aſcendency in beauty to any other of the ſerpentine race as yet known; but as fierce as fallacious in his nature: he will attack either man or beaſt openly or by ſurprize, and by darting at the throat, ſeize that part above with his jaws, of a capacity ſufficient to take in a lambkin's head, if in proportion to a body of three yards in length, which in general are their dimenſions, while entangling their legs, by winding his body and tail round them below, he overſets his game and feaſts on the crimſon ſtream; which ſerpent, notwithſtanding

* This umbrella is a common tranſparent film, interwoven with membraneous rays, about the thickneſs of gooſe quills below, and of a yellow colour throughout, that diverging like fan ſticks when expanded, and from an incurvation at their extremities above, form a ſcolloped alcove over the head of the Covra Capel, reſembling much a ſcallop ſhell, that growing out from about a ſpan below the back of his head, and originating at his gills, or the angles of his mouth, and when extended reaching upwards, forms this coverving, that the natives gives the name of the hood to; and the Portugueſe likewiſe, who firſt gave them the name of Covra Capel; the bite of which animals, independent of their voraciouſneſs, is mortal withuot inſtantaneous remedies are applied.

ing his natural ferocity, their owners find means to tame and domeſticate, as well as the *Covra Manil* or ringed ſnakes, which ſnakes is about one fifth leſs in proportion than the *Covra Capel*, differing little, if any, from other ſerpents, than in it's jaws, which are of leſs eccentricity, but a more dangerous enemy to animals and mankind than any, perhaps, of the reptile ſpecies; the progreſs of it's poiſon being ſo rapid, that without the limb that is wounded by it's bite is directly cut off, or an antidote inſtantaneouſly applied, with external remedies, the whole maſs of blood, within leſs than an hour, will be corroded, and the patient expire in agony with the pain.

This ſnake during the dance, contrary to the motions of the reſt, would form itſelf into a complete ſpiral, with her head upwards at one time, and downwards at another, reſting on the earth, while with the circumgyrations of its body and tail, it would catch an acceſſable adjacent bough of a tree or twig, and ſnatching himſelf up retain himſelf by it 'till a bird above or fowl below coming within length of his graſp, dart at it and retire to devour it. Beſides which above animals carried about in this country by people of the above caſt, there is a race of large ſnakes which infeſt the ſwamps in the province of Dacca and Chittagan, of an enormous ſize, ſome of them meaſuring one and twenty feet in length and three feet in circumferance, with heads as large as horſes, and fins and combs to them of a black membraneous ſubſtance reſembling whalebone, but grown like hog's briſtles, and in ſomewiſe reſembling a mane; which with the redneſs of their lips, and the irritated glare of their eyes when their jaws are open and their tongues are lolling out, with the ſlime and the ſaliva running therefrom, (in which ſituation I have ſeen them baſking in the ſun) gives them

them as terrific as obnoxious an appearance; notwithſtanding which enormous ſize and capacity to depredate on either man or beaſt, a ſet of people who frequent the *jungley* parts of theſe provinces, reduce them to ſuch a degree of ſubordination that at a call they will rouſe from their places of confinement or abode, and return to them as ſoon, after being fed, at the word of command; (an argument of their ſuperior ſagacity to other reptiles) which monſters are carried in large baſkets on bamboos, through Indoſtan, and let out to ſatisfy the curioſity of the inhabitants.

I have deſcribed theſe different ſets of people as I ſet them down in the order they occured to my mind when I began my letter, without paying any regard to precedency, a thing of which the Indoſtans above all are tenacious, or I ſhould have placed the faulconers, if not the firſt at leaſt, the ſecond on my liſt, as theſe men are always in the ſervice of omrahs or princes, who moſtly beſtow the office of faulconer on a decayed Mahomedan of former good repute, or the ſon, of a like character. Their buſineſs is to train the young faulcon up to his buſineſs, to feed him and air him daily, according to cuſtom, and to always attend his maſter in *ſawary**; on which occaſion, if the omrah he belongs to propoſes going any diſtance, the faulconer is furniſhed with a horſe from the ſtables to ride on, when he joins in with the *ſawawry*, with his royal bird perched on his left hand; on which, to ſecure him from the gripe of his talons, he wears a ſtout leatherher glove; in which manner he conducts him 'till a pidgeon or partridge is ſeen aloft, when the hood being taken off his eyes he takes an aerial excurſion, and ſeizing on his winged prey, at a call returns

* Proceſſion, whether on an elephant, horſe, or in a palanquin.

turns in variegated directions, exulting in his ſucceſs to the wriſts of his keeper, who ſeizing on the wounded fowl, before the breath is out of his body, that nothing may be eat by this royal bird, that may contaminate him, takes a knife from out of it's ſcabbard, from his ſide, and pronouncing the words, *Biſſim Allah Nirouah Alloim*, draws the blade acroſs it's throat and ſacrifices it, when it is lawful for him to eat it, which he gives him to devour.

No. 18.

LADY CAROLINE *********,
Weſtminſter.

IN my letter, No. 6, in treating of the dancing girls, I declined, including in a deſcription of them, the women in general of the country, from a deference I wiſhed to ſhew women of other ſtamp, on the one hand, and from my want of a ſufficient knowledge of the Indoſtan females in general on the other, ſince the writing of which letter my experience in the country has enabled me to form a tolerable good idea of the temper, character and manners of it's inhabitants, and particularly of the females, opportunities that have been afforded me and very lately of becoming acquainted with the domeſtic œconomy of women of the firſt ſtamp, having ſupplied me with materials enough, not only to fill up a letter, but a little volume on the occaſion, I ſhall venture upon a general deſcription, however conciſe, of their perſons, morals and manners. The Indoſtan women, whether Gentoos or Mahomedans, are allowed by all travellers, to be remarkable for animated and beautiful countenances, proportionable bodies and limbs,

limbs, and a delicacy of behaviour, which characteriſtic may be ſaid to be general, for though deſcended from parents of different tribes and complexions, which a long intercourſe with foreign nations and between the Mahomedans and Gentoos that did not ſubſiſt in any conſiderable degree until the total ſubverſion of the Hindoo authority and their ſubordination to the Mogul's took place, may account for, that has notwithſtanding produced an obvious difference in their complexions, in proportion to the colour of their progenitors, a ſimilarity of looks, gait and actions, and even formation of body and limbs; ſubſiſts to the ultimate degree.

With reſpect to their perſons, the unwearied attention they pay to them, and indefatigable pains that are taken by them to keep them clean (particularly among women of rank) is ſo unparalleled that, in the eyes of any other nation than themſelves, or people who had reſided amongſt them, however expedient the mode, and indiſpenſably neceſſary, it would appear as ridiculous as uſeleſs, an appropriation of time, and as undeniable a contamination of it, notwithſtanding not only the precepts of their religion, independent of the invariable cuſtom of the country; their invincible deſire to render themſelves agreeable to their connections, whether feminine or maſculine, and if married, to pleaſe their partners to whom they are inviolably attached, and owe implicit obedience; their ſituation with reſpect to latitude, and a combination of other mental and local conſiderations, as evident to themſelves as indiſtinguiſhable to others, in a climate like the one alluded to, where the intenſe heat of the ſun that keeps both the rational and animal part of the creation in a ſtate of fumigation and perſpiration, which calls upon all the precautions prudence can dictate for the preſervation of health;

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as for inſtance, the frequency of baths, and repeated lavations of the body; for the reſtoration of it's wonted elaſticity reduced to a ſtate of relaxation, and for the prevention of ſcum and ſoil accumulating and adhering to the ſkin, exacts, if not all, a conſiderable part of that attention they pay to their perſons, and argues a propriety that is commendable, and worthy of imitation.

I propoſe confining my remarks for the preſent, to the deſcription of the manners of women of diſtinction, who, enemies to indolence, and brilliant in their nature, riſe with the ſun, make a ſhort prayer to heaven, and invoking Mahomet, call for their attendance, conſiſting of eunuchs, ſervant maids and women, with their ſhawls and veils thrown careleſly over their bodies, and a few coriander ſeeds mixed, with their *beatle* in their mouths, in an elevation of ſpirits that is always attendant on health and an unclouded mind, in a cluſter huddled up in this undreſs retire, to a bath in a garden, ſituate under an arborage or bower, within the walls of the *Zunnannah;* where, with their *lungahs* round their waiſts, and their veils over their ſhoulders, they repeat a ſecond prayer proſtrate on the ground, then riſe and plunge into the bagnio, taking care to ſtop their ears up with little plugs of cotton perfumed, and corns of pimento within ſide as preventatives againſt colds and the obſtruction of water, and uſe ſimilar precautions with their noſtrils, by pinching them cloſe between their fingers and thumbs before they dive, and keeping them confined in that manner while immerged in the water, where, as a part of their education, taught from their infancy to ſwim, diſporting in the limpid plain, they will emulate with each other in feats of activity, waſhing and rubbing themſelves at the ſame time with *Romals,* that their attendants continually ſupply them with

with through their watery excurſions, that ſnatching out of their hands and paſſing over their heads, in their circumprogreſſive lavations and immerſions, in the lucid ſtream, added to the various circumfuſions of their beautiful coloured *Lungahs* and veils, with their ſhining borders glittering through the tranſparent waves, conſtitutes a ſcene eaſier to conceive than expreſs. Theſe diverſions they will continue for the ſpace of a quarter of an hour: upon quitting the bath a ſcreen will be made of their *Lungahs* and veils, by hanging them on ſilk lines that always environ the ſides of their baths, and large callico cloths thrown over their bodies that cover them from head to foot; this done they ſeat themſelves on wove mats, and with multan *mittee* and water, prime their whole bodies, and clot their hair likewiſe, (when they expoſe themſelves to the ſun, which dries it up inſtantaneouſly) after which their maids take balls of Indian meal and ſand and rub well their whole bodies with it, while others are employed in pouring water over them and waſhing away the dregs, 'till they have ſufficiently cleared them of the multan *mittee*, when the ladies inveſting themſelves anew in the order they had done at riſing, plunge themſelves again into the baths, and after a ſecond lavation return to their apartments, when another proceſs is begun.—The ladies then throw themſelves on their ſettees, and their ſervants pare their nails and file them, prick their ears and clean them, then comb out their hair, braid it and perfume it, and after that, hand them *Munjun* to rub and cleanſe their teeth and gums with, and two or three waters to waſh them withal, when almond powder is uſed as a ſubſtitute for ſoap, which to thoſe ladies would be as obnoxious as the application of odour, after which they perfume them with *Ottah*, by ſlightly rubbing their ſkins with it when they

they inveſt them with their jewels and dreſs them in freſh attire; when after reading part of a chapter in the alcoran, they join in a ſhort prayer, and withdraw into a ſaloon to breakfaſt, within an *epinjary*, or cage, being a light portable fabrick conſtituted of frames, like thoſe of a ſcreen, the top covered with tiſſue the inſide with coloured gauze, in order to prevent the intruſion of flies and muſquetoes, at meals,—ſo offenſive to Indoſtans, particularly to the women, that a large fly to enter one of their apartments alone, or in company, would occaſion ſuch an hue and cry that a troop of domeſtics would aſſemble, and with forceps made on purpoſe for the entrapping theſe voltigent intruders (conſtructed after the manner of drum battle-doors, but of a larger circumference, and covered with gauze) chace and catch the buzzing maroder, and confined in that manner, have him conveyed beyond the confines of their *Zunnannahs* before they will venture to ſit down and enjoy themſelves.

Thus incaſed in their *epinjary*, ſecure from the innovation of flies, the eldeſt in company ſaying grace, they ſeat themſelves down according to the cuſtom of the country, to partake of the meats prepared for their breakfaſt. The manner in which theſe repaſts are conducted are in every reſpect like the Turks, and other Aſiatics, that in the courſe of your reading you muſt have become ſufficiently acquainted with. After breakfaſt they waſh their mouths and hands, paſs round the beatle, and make a ſhort excurſion in the gardens; which done they enter their apartments, and their ſervants ſprinkle them with roſe-water out of the *golab perches*, they then pay their compliments to them, and aſk their commands, when the buſineſs of the day will be pointed out, whether at home or abroad; if the latter, and

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there is a married lady in queſtion, ſhe will perhaps retire to a private part of the manſion with her daughters, and ordering her ſons into her preſence, after reciprocal ſalutations, accompany her enquiries after their health with ſome mark of her eſteem, a trinket, a toy, or ſome appendage of dreſs; for inſtance, if a boy, perhaps a handſome arrow made at *Lahor**, a new ink-ſtand, or taſſels for his poignard; while to the girls ſome piece of fine muſlin will be diſtributed, to make up into robes, and mantua-makers called in to meaſure them and cut out the garments;—when if an apple or a pear is given to them, it will be divided with deliberation equally, by their being cut into ſlices; then one of the ladies to whom the aſcendency is given in point of declamation, will be requeſted to recite ſome ſelect paſſage of ſome ancient or modern author; after which another will repeat a copy of as choſen verſes, probably compoſed by herſelf; an acquaintance, or one of the party or family, or a matron remarkable for her retentive faculty and aptitude to relate ſtories, fabulous or fact, will undertake the recital of an extract from the Perſian or Arabian night tales, a conciſe hiſtory of one of the emperors, or anecdote of the times; in the courſe of which relations, which they make a point of cutting ſhort, they admiring preciſion and brevity in their diſcourſes, (which they are as remarkable for as their laconic replies and ſpeeches in altercations in general) animadverſions will be made by different perſons in the company, on the ſtyle, diction, variety, contraſt, and propriety of the narrative, while parties are amuſing themſelves at plays, tho' liſtening attentively to different narrations at the ſame time; one party perhaps at cards, and another at fox and geeſe; the cards they play with being round,

* for it's fine bows and arrows.

about the ſize of crown pieces, and painted, gilt and glazed, and the tables for the other games made of ſattin lined with canvaſs, and with the diagonals and ſquares worked with gold and ſilver threads, while little ivory ſtandards repreſent the fox and geeſe, which, and the like amuſements, will continue till the heat of the day coming on, they will retire to their lords in the interior parts of the Seraglio, (the ladies connected in marriage) and thoſe in a ſtate of celibacy, to other as ſecluded apartments.

I did propoſe having finiſhed an account of the domeſtic œconomy of the ladies and females in general in this letter, to have ſubjoined a ſketch of the ſingular and refined mode of education of both ſexes in theſe parts; but an order I have received from the chief at Eleabas, that obliges me to proceed directly up the Ganges for Patna, prevents my treating any farther on theſe ſubjects at preſent: I therefore requeſt you will let the following lines, directed to the care of my friend at Athy, who has taken upon him the charge of tranſcribing and diſtributing my letters as addreſſed; as they are all ſubmitted to his peruſal; if not ſupply that defect anſwer the purpoſe of an Eaſt-India packet, which in your laſt was all you exacted.

No. 19.

GEORGE CHAPMAN, eſq; Athy, in Ireland.

FROM the complection of my letters you might conclude that my time was ſolely taken up in one continued round of pleaſures, and in remarking the manners and cuſtoms of Indoſtan, it's animal and vegetable produce, manufactures and buildings; but

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it is not the caſe, as a ſmall proportion of it is ſpent that way; the buſineſs I am upon exacts a rigid attention: I have angles to take from the ſides of rivers and creeks, and tracts of land to meaſure acroſs *Jungles* I am ſurveying, and other places as difficult to penetrate; when on board of my Budgero, or in my marquee, maps and charts of different data and different proportions and projections to methodiſe; ſome gnominic, ſome ſtereographic, ſome arthographic, and ſome mercators; differing both in their longitude and latitude of places; ſome being obſolete and ſome modern: in general, all rude and indigeſted materials, which I have to reduce to one ſcale and ſpecies of projection, and from them and other materials of *Gentoos*, men but little experienced in the buſineſs, and Europeans as inexpert, or juſt initiated into the art of Geodoſia; beſides, a journal of my proceedings I have to keep to throw before the committee at the precedency appointed to examine into the buſineſs of the ſurvey. Theſe may be ſaid to be my public concerns; beſides which, I have a private trade to carry on, whether licit or contraband, and matters of litigation to ſettle, whether belonging to me the prorogative or not, no adventurer in India hoping to obtain a competency ever, without tranſcending the narrow precincts of the Company's civil, military, and commercial ordinances and reſtrictions, much leſs to come at ten or a dozen lacks of rupees before he arrives to the rank of a counſellor, (a mere Bagattelle) in compariſon to what ſome Companies ſervants in Bengal have acquired, between their being writers and getting into council, an apprenticeſhip of about 9 or 10 years they generally ſerve before they arrive to that honour, when they may be ſaid to ſet up for themſelves: how they acquire ſuch rapid and immenſe fortunes I ſhall make it my buſineſs in future to inform you.

At preſent I am engaged in making preparations to leave Muxadabads; it is reported that Hyder Ally Khan has laid all the country waſte to the ſouthward, and that the Company's affairs are in a very precarious ſituation in the department of Madraſs. Laſt ſeaſon troops were ſent to them from Bengal, and now we are informed they are in want of more ſupplies. How the governor and council at Calcutta will order matters I cannot tell; but it is ſaid here by the old ſtandards in the country, that they are apprehenſive the folks at Madraſs have got themſelves in a predicament they will not ſo readily extricate themſelves from. Hyder Ally has more than once hemmed in the Company's brigades. He ſtorms their camps (as their letters report) ſword in hand, and obliges them to form whenever he thinks proper, and gallops up with his horſe to the mouth of their cannon, cuts down their artillerymen, and turns their pieces againſt them; in ſhort, by his ſtratagems, and a run of ſucceſſes he has had, he has ſo hampered the military, and diſconcerted the meaſures of the governor and council there, that, unable to act any longer on the offenſive, and of extending Mamadilly, the Nabob of Arcot's pretended territorial rights, they find themſelves reduced to the alternative of paying Hyder his own demands for the expence they have put him to by a war, and ſurrendering him up Sandyſyab's family, now priſoners in the fort of St. George, with other weighty requiſitions Hyder, it is rumored, expects them to make him before he ſheaths his ſword, or let the re-eſtabliſhment of their credit (not a little hurt by their conduct towards this man) reſt on the riſk of a battle with him, on the ſucceſs of which would ſolely depend the completion of their annual inveſtments of cloths, diamonds, and other articles, the produce of the Carnatic, in which, if they fail, the

the Company's affairs will receive a ſhock in theſe parts that muſt materially effect their whole credit in India and at home; be it as it will, there are nothing but rumours of wars with us here; a militia is raiſed at Calcutta, and all it's ſubordinates to be prepared for the Marattas, now encamped near Eleabas, in caſe their confederates on the frontiers of our ſettlements to the ſouthward ſhould have planned an invaſion from two quarters, and in conſequence of ſome diſpatches arrived this inſtant from the Decan, the three European brigades are ordered with a large army of Seapoys and artillery, to march to Monghere.

In my next, it is likely I ſhall be able to let you know the event of all this buſtle. I expect to be in the thick of it before next ſeaſon; in the interim, do not expect to hear from me till my arrival at Bangermau, a place a little inland from the Ganges, where the buſineſs I am upon will oblige me to make ſome ſtay, when I propoſe embracing an opportunity of writing a general letter to my friends.

No. 20.

To the same.

Bangermau, near the Great Ganges.

I ARRIVED here yeſterday morning with a tent and equipage, having left my *Budgero* at Frakabadgott, when a *Chubdar* directly from the Killah, brought me the compliments of Allybegkan, the *Faſdar*, with *meerſmanny*, who I accompanied with my attendants to the Killah, (a few ſteps off) where I was met by two handſome young *Cojahs*, whoſe phyſiognomies and dreſſes were more like women than men, and conducted by them to Allybeghan.

This man was ſhort and robuſt, about 70 years of age, had a venerable black beard, they having an art to tinge the hair black to a great degree of perfection. He was copper-coloured, had a black ſparkling eye, and was a native of Iſpahan, and from his infancy, intimate with Thomas Koulikan, afterwards ſtyled Nadir Shaw, following the fortunes of this eminent warrior, became one of his principal confidents and leading officers: but on Nadir Shaw's being killed, retreating with his family and a body of horſe to Indoſtan; to ſtrengthen his intereſt, he married one of his daughters to the Vizier, who retained him in his ſervice, and advanced him and his followers. He was ſeated on a carpet leaning againſt a large cuſhion, in a circle of Mogul officers who lined the apartment.

Theſe Moguls had a fierce look methought, which their ruddy complexions, buſhy beards, ſharp white teeth, fiery eyes, and big turbans, did not a little contribute to any more than their arms and dreſs; they wearing all high cylindrical caps within their turbans, exactly in the proportion and form of an high crowned hat of different coloured velvets, ſattins, broad-cloths and *kincobs*, and traverſed round with ſhawls, or ſome beautiful manufacture, and tied over all with a *ramol* to keep them ſnug, and from falling off when on horſeback. Their coats were like *Huſſar*'s veſts, both in the body and ſleeves, but longer and fuller in the ſkirts, they coming down to their ancles, and are bound all round their waiſts with large ſhawls or ſilk, or chequered linen ſaſhes, in which they ſtuck their poignards and their ſcymitars, which are eccentrical, and hung by their ſides by handſome belts paſſed under the ſaſh. Inſtead of breehches they wear drawers, and over them velvet or broad cloth long full trowſers; all which clothes were neatly made, and under all their ſhirts,

which

which differ in no wiſe from women's ſhifts, having neither collars nor wriſt-bands to them. Their boots vary in nothing from European boots but in the heels, which are made exactly like our women's high heeled ſhoes, and their ſlippers are made in the ſame manner but ſtouter, and are moſtly of velvet or cloth, or of red, blue or green leather. The claſps of their belts, and the hilts of their ſwords, and in ſhort, all the metal about their arms and miſſive weapons, were in general gold, and ſtudded with jewels; and upon the whole, they cut as warlike as reſpectable an appearance, and being the flower of Nadir Shaw's ſoldiers, tho' moſt of them advanced to 40 or 50 years of age, and numbers of them upwards of 60 or 70; they neither wanted vigour of body or mind, which were both evident in their looks and actions, having in general a warlike aſpect, and had upon the whole, the appearance of men of credit and wealth; they having, moſt of them, more or leſs gold in ſpecie and jewels they had accumulated at different times in battle, and favorites of the Grand Vizer were perpetually employed on lucrative jobbs that added to their wealth; theſe men being cuttlebaſhes, not common horſemen, but even part of the identical body of men who had been employed by Nadir Shah, to exact the contribution of the inhabitants of Delhy and Indoſtan, when he invaded the empire.

On my making my appearance the old man aroſe and met me half way, took me in his arms, according to the cuſtom of the country, and ſat me down at his right hand, placing a cuſhin between us both to lean on; when I ſignified to him that I wiſhed for a private conference, on which the company and attendants were told to withdraw, and no one but eunuchs, who are admitted to all privacy whatever, remained in the ſaloon; when after ſome few queſtions,

tions, of courſe independent of the buſineſs I was upon of a ſurvey, I opened to him my mind on another ſubject quite remote; it was on that of my quitting the connection of the Engliſh and trying my fortune by joining *Sujah Dowlah*. The exalted idea I had formed of that Vizier from the various accouuts I had had of his magnificence and the ſpecimens I had ſeen of his opulence amonſt the Engliſh, who had made their fortunes by the plunder they gained at the battle of Buxar; added to the great wages he gave to Europeans of even the loweſt ſtamp, and the ſuperior encouragement he had given to ſome French gentlemen, and other foreigners who had ſought employment under him, with a number of other powerful incentives, ſtrongly biaſſed me towards the ſtep. He was an enterprizing prince, with no bounds to his generoſity, and it appeared to me in a ſtrong light, that could I but get introduced into his ſervice, I could not fail of anſwering his purpoſe and making my fortune; but ſuch impediments laid in my way againſt accompliſhing ſuch a deſign, that it was evident to me, without uncommon luck and ſome extraordinary effort of intereſt, out of the uſual channel, exerted in my favour, I ſhould never gain my point.

The Company, to their ſorrow, had experienced already the diſagreeable effects of Europeans having ſtraggled up the country, and joined the country powers; but particularly in the body of them this prince had got together, by whoſe means he had not only raiſed an army of thirty thouſand ſeapoys, equal, if not ſuperior, in diſcipline, to the Company's troops; ſet a foot a large train of artillery, as well mounted and ſerved as any at Fort-William; and initiated his artificers and mechanics in all the collateral branches of artillery and warlike apparatus; circumſtances ſo diametrically oppoſite to the

Company's

Company's politics, that it getting to the ears of the court of directors at home, they reprimanded the governor and council in their letters to them from Europe, for tacitly permitting the Vizier to raiſe ſuch a military force; who made it an object of ſuch conſequence to them in the main, that they ſent a meſſenger to him by one of their factors, to diſmount his artillery and diſband his ſeapoys; which Sujah Dowlah conſidered in ſuch an approbrious light that he diſmiſſed their ambaſſador without giving him an anſwer; and provoked with this meaſure, and not knowing what ſiniſter deſigns they might have, he aſſembled his whole army, and marched through Gorackpore towards Patna, when a ſecond meſſage from the Company, to know the reaſon of ſuch a warlike appearance on the frontiers of their lands, that gave his highneſs an opportunity of coming to an explication of his motives for aſſembling his troops. After they came to an eclairciſſement he ended his expedition in a drill campain, and his army, artillery, and European detachments have been encreaſing ever ſince; from which time, while the Company to prevent any future migrations of Europeans up into the interior parts of the country, have given orders tolet no white men, without their permit, paſs the Choques forts or ſettlements, and enacted in council, that any ſervant of the Company's who ſhould preſume to viſit the *Patcha*, *Vizier*, *Soubah*, or any of the country powers, without their leave, he ſhould be diſmiſſed their ſervice; and if a free merchant, free mariner, or any other adventurer in the country (though not in their ſervice) for ſuch on offence be ſent a priſoner to the Preſidency, and as ſuch conveyed to Europe. Theſe reſtrictions ſubſiſting, were the ſtumbling blocks in my way, which apparently had hitherto prevented my attempting affecting any buſineſs with Sujah Dowlah; in order

to remove which obſtacles, on my arrival at Bangermau, it occurred to me that the Faſdar, who ſaw with an envious eye the growing power of the Company, and had talked loudly of their late impertinent behaviour to the Vizier, might poſſibly liſten to a prepoſition that had a tendency to the aggrandiſement of his ſon in law; as my vanity made me preſume, that the offer of an Engliſh *Toppee Wallas*'s ſervices (of my conſequence) might not be conſidered as an object of no importauce, and flattered with that idea, I determined on explaining myſelf to this Mogul of eminence on the occaſion, which, in the interview I had required of him, I did in *earneſt* and ſufficient terms, that he liſtened to with the greateſt attention; and though prepared with an anſwer, as he afterwards informed me, then told me it was a matter of the utmoſt moment, that required ſome mature and deliberate conſideration, to which he would attend, and give his opinion of in the evening: in the interim, informing me breakfaſt was ready, that had, he added, been retarded upon my account, which he would be glad I would partake of; I accordingly went with him into the apartment adjoining.

This was the firſt time I ever ate with a Mogul, and as the entertainment was to me new, I will give you an account of it: a large covering was ſpread in the middle of the apartment, made of camel's leather, neatly ſewed together and fringed with the ſame, with diaper cloths and beautiful mats above all, to place the diſhes on; Madeira and claret wines were then, by order of the *Faſdar*, brought in from my own caſes, for my uſe, when after they had ſeated themſelves croſs-legg'd, as uſual, with the *Faſdar* at the head of his company, conſiſting of about forty Moguls and others, bread of two different kinds was handed round,—the one ſort was

nonpoy bread, the other *chappaty* bread; the *nonpoy* bread was leavened, and about the ſize of thick pancakes or ſlapjacks, and the *chappaty* or unleavened bread, (the dimenſions of a common china plate) made of flour and water, converted into dough, flattened out with hands, and afterwards baked on *aſtavoes* or hollow iron utenſils. Their meats were of various kinds, and too tedious to enumerate; however ſome of them I will introduce by way of variety; which were their *Pilloes*, ſaline *Sourrouadars* and meat *Curryadar*. Their pilloes are their favourite and ſtanding diſhes, and are made of rice and the meat of kid, mutton, antelope, deer or fowls, and cooked much after the manner as in Europe, with this difference, that the flavour of them is not heightened by the addition of ham, which to chriſtians, though ſo agreeable to Mahomedans, is ſo obnoxious that what quantity of it would ſatisfy the appetite of a child amongſt us, would not only contaminate the meats of a ſingle repaſt, but pollute a whole tribe of *Muſſulmans* that ſhould partake of it. The ſmaller diſhes were kid, mutton and fowl; fried, boiled and roaſted, and ſome of each made into forc'd-meat-balls; with fiſh, fleſh and fowls dreſſed with *Curryſtuff* and *Salline Sourrouadar* (of which two laſt articles, *See Gloſſary* for explication). The pilloes were ſerved up in diſhes of about three feet in diameter; the one of gold, the other two of ſilver: the other meats were ſerved up, ſome in thin wooden trenchers, and ſome on plates and diſhes of china, ſilver and gold, of different ſorts and ſizes; they prefering this variety, in thoſe articles, throughout the country, to that uniformity therein we ſo much admire. Thus ſeated, and grace being ſaid by the *Faſdar*, as head of the family, he began to officiate at table in diſtributing the different meats that were before us, which he did with great alacrity

and

and chearfulneſs; and ſhewing me a deference as a ſtranger, had the diſhes of *Pilloe* handed to him, when taking two of theſe large flat *Nonpoys*, above deſcribed, with a proportion of the *Chappaty* bread, clapping both hands firſt into one diſh and then into another, filled them with *Pilloe*, and ſent me at different times, double handfuls of theſe articles, with a pickled mango in each, on the ſurface of theſe broad cakes pinch'd up like a hat to confine the meat as it was handed from the Faſdar to me; when rejecting the knife and fork that was laid on purpoſe for me, that I might conform to the manners of the company I was in, I ate with my right hand, though without being able to acquit myſelf with that facility and faſhion the Faſdar and his company did.

Theſe Aſiatics in general, averſe to uſeleſs and trivial altercation, are more remarkable for their taciturnity than loquacity, which I diſcovered at this interview, notwithſtanding which they are ſtill ſociable and communicative, deciſive, and laconic in their ſpeech, and without uſing ſtrained compliments like the Chriſtians, are naturally hoſpitable and generous, rather than polite and ceremonial; eſteeming any thing that will excite laughter as ridiculous, whether an act, word or deed: a perſon by his writings or expreſſions, to acquire the name of a wit amongſt them, would be eſteemed, if not a fool, a buffoon, without being pitied or deſpiſed.

The Moguls, by profeſſion warriors, are uſed from their infancy to face danger and the extremities incident to their calling; their character and dependance reſting on their ſupporting the dignity of a Seapoy, contemning every thing that has the colour of effeminancy or *frivole*; their conſtant ſtudy being never let their words and actions contradict their pretenſions to equanimity and honour; and equally manly and tenacious of their behaviour among themſelves

ſelves in public or private companies, no ſudden ſtart or flirts of body or mind, will with the ſtricteſt ſcrutiny, be diſcovered in an intercourſe of ſeven years with theſe people, to hear them break out into a loud vociferation or horſe laugh, notwithſtanding the natural brightneſs and chearfulneſs of their temper: though uſed to depredation in war, and deciſive when they ſtrike a blow, as they never draw their ſwords in vain, they ſtill know when to ſhow mercy or when to give no quarter: as for inſtance, an aged or defenceleſs man, woman or child, would be ſure of an aſylum, from all quarters, amongſt Moguls or Indoſtans, under any circumſtances whatever, whether in war or peace; and with reſpect to women, ſo ſacred is held the perſon of a female in thoſe parts, that a *Dooly*, *Palanquin*, or *Hackerrey*, with women therein, covered with ſcarlet cloth and announced to be a *Zunnannah*, between even contending armies, would not only paſs unmoleſted, but eſcorts from both parties would be detached to convey them out of harms way; for to violate this law is death without reprieve; inaſmuch that even to lift up, through curioſity or any other motive, the mantle of the carriage, if apprehended, the party's right hand will be cut off, and the other branded with an hot iron, for infamy, let the woman or women in queſtion be of whatever ſtamp or quality may be; it matters not be they rich or poor, their honour and perſons are held ſacred in theſe parts and amongſt theſe people.

They are not leſs rigid in the obſervance of the payment of their debts, and equally as charitably diſpoſed, having a natural propenſity to give alms without being urged to it from the commandments of their alcoran, which makes charitable acts as eſſential a duty in men as prayer, but actuated by inherent principles of humanity when aſked for re-

lief

lief by a diſtreſſed perſon, without framing idle pretexts to evade helping the needy, or aggravating the ſuppliant's misfortune by aſcribing them to idleneſs, drunkenneſs, gaming, or other extravagance, as is too frequently the caſe amongſt many very apparent good chriſtians, but immediately order him victuals, and if any company, a ſmall collection will be made amongſt them for the poor mendicant, and when diſmiſſed, give them their farewell in earneſt terms, by ſaying *allah hafuſt*, which ſignifies God be with you.

They are not leſs commendable in points of religion and morality, never taking God's name in vain; that is, have not recourſe to oaths, but when called upon by courts of judicature, or exacted of them on emergent occaſions, when the formalities of laws and juſtice require it. When a Seapoy ſwears by his ſcymitar or the alcoran, putting his hand on the one or the other, both being equally held ſacred in this caſe, and no provocation can induce them to uſe execrations, or illiberal language to each other, or neglect their duty to their parents, whom they love to exceſs, tho' the ſame affection does not ſubſiſt between brothers and ſiſters, which ariſes entirely from the liberty of their alcoran, (i. e. their bible) that permits them to have plurality of wives, from which different branches of ſons and daughters may ſpring, and all claim equal right to parental affection and inheritance. Hence the various paricides, fratricides, and maſſacres, throughout all the Mahometan dominions, that the wiſdom of the chriſtian laws happily precludes. With reſpect to religion without being great bigots, excepting their prieſts, who are not without their craft, any more than many others of other ſects; they neglect not the worſhip of God, for they pray

twice

twice a day, and freqently peruſe the alcoran, or hear a *Molvee* read a chapter.

I ſhall now return to our repaſt, which having finiſhed, a deſart of fruit was brought in, and an apple and a pear preſented me as a rarity, in which light indeed they might be conſidered; they having been produced on the frontiers of Arabia, and brought from thence in little ſcrew boxes, and ſeparately packed and ſtowed in cotton, and ſold afterwards at the rate of two rupees a-piece when not plentiful, and at a rupee a-piece on an average. After the deſart, the *Fazdar* ſmoaked his *hooker*, and the reſt af the company their *ſulphas*, and formed parties, ſome at cheſs, (a favorite game amongſt them) others at fox and geeſe, ſome at chequers, and others at cards; during which diſſipations, *ſherbetts* occaſionally were called for to taſte of, (not quench their thirſts with, as that is only admiſſible with water) and to moiſten their mouths and give a zeſt to their ſmoaking, which they do without ſpitting; a circumſtance peculiar to no other people but Aſiatics, as well as their rejection of all ſpirits or intoxicationg liquors on theſe occaſions, or on any other, but ſuch as I ſhall point out, wherein the uſe of either taken under certain circumſtances, as an auxilliary contributory to health renders it ſalutary; whereas from the frequent uſe of which, not only a train of fatal conſequences ariſes injurious to both body and mind, and equally detrimental to ſociety, but is productive of a degeneracy in the human ſyſtem, that by debilitating it, becomes a bar to the increaſe of mankind, and held in ſuch deteſtation in Indoſtan, that notwithſtanding there are ſtills for the diſtillation of ſpirits, the ſale of them are under the moſt rigid reſtrictions, in any part of the country where Europeans have not had influence, and uſed in common by no people but

Hallacores,

Hallalcores, *Sewarwollas*, and *Chummars*, who all go under the denomination of *Harricaſt*; who, being held as unfit to aſſociate with others, are not permitted to dwell within the walls of their cities or towns, but have little huts or houſes in the ſuburbs alotted them to reſide in, who drink at ſeaſonable times ſpirits, but never to exceſs; as for inſtance, when overcome with fatigue by carrying burdens, it falling to the lot of theſe people to ſerve as *begaries* throughout the country, more than any others, as well as to do the moſt laborious parts of work without doors, or when after the labours of the day, or at a wedding feſtival, or an entertainment, when in imitation of the Chriſtians, they will regale themſelves with a few potions of the inebriating juice, while *Aumeers* and *Rajahs*, like the generality of other great men, whether Pagans or Chriſtians, who, building upon their rank and independence, together with their ſuperior talents and education, claim luxuriant *pharaſanalia*, and prerogatives amongſt themſelves, (that with the vulgar would never be admiſſible, or by them be thought of) in their hours of diſſipation, whether with lords of their acquaintance, or when ſolacing themſelves during the rainy ſeaſons, in their *bungaloes* or *budgnroes*; or at other times in their ſeraglios, be ſo conſcientious, as to refuſe from the fair hands of their miſtreſſes rich wine or cordial, of which their conſorts on theſe occaſions will pertake, but in ſuch ſtipulated potions, that what would ſerve a lady of quality in England, would be ſufficient to ſatiate a large company in Indoſtan.

The above innovation on the laws of the alcoran and *Shaſtrato*, which makes it *Haram**, to drink wine or ſpirits, is entirely confined to the ſets of people I have been diſcriminating, and the dancing girls

* Damnation.

girls and players of all denominations, who notwithſtanding the freedom they violate them with at times, conſcious of their having broken through moral and religious reſtrictions, thinking themſelves unfit for prayer, or further legal proſecution of their affairs, until they have expiated their ſins by lavations of the body, and acts of contrition, never appear in public after a breach of this kind, or begin any other negociation public or private, till they have plunged in a bath, and aſked forgiveneſs of *Oſman** and Mahomet (if muſſulmans) and waſhed away their ſins with the holy waters of the Ganges, (if *Gentoos*) and prayed to *Bogwan*, the Sun, and four elements; made libations and proſtrations to them at the ſame time, and invoked *Jagernaut* and *Chrimou Swamy*, for remiſſion of their crime: which reſtitution for ſin, in breaking this weighty commandment, however reconcileable to the ſecular part of theſe people, is repugnant in every ſhape to the ſentiments of their prieſthood, as in their eyes incompatible with the principles of religion and morality. *Bramins* amongſt the *Hindoos*, or any other ſet of men amongſt the Mahometans, particularly with prieſts, would as ſoon diſpenſe with poiſon, as with ſpirits or wine.

Something leſs than an hour was paſſed away in thoſe amuſements after dinner, when the company taking leave of the *Faſdar*, they diſperſed; which time I employed in ſounding *Allybegkan*, on the ſubject I had introduced to him in the forenoon, concerning the eligibility of my joining the Vizer, not having patience to wait his anſwer as propoſed, till evening; or ſhould not that be made out at all pacticable, circumſtanced as things were then between him and the Company, and of diverting my purſuits into another channel, and courting the friendſhip

* Heaven.

friendſhip of the Patcha*, and following his fortunes as ſoon as he ſhould quit the connections of the Engliſh, which it was commonly reported, he had ultimately determined on doing before the ſetting in of the next rains, which the preparations he had made, and his behaviour to the Company, left no manner of room to doubt but he would accompliſh if he could.

The impoſſibility of removing the variety of obſtacles that would apparently intervene with any attempt I ſhould make, of connecting myſelf at that juncture with *Sujah Dawlah*, being demonſtrated to me by this man in a clear and perſpicuous light, I adopted the latter, relinquiſhed all idea of the former, and ſubſtituted in it's place that of accompanying *Shaw Aullim*, in his intended expedition to Delhy, as already thought of, for, not ſatisfied with my ſituation, however eligible, and preſent purſuits, and fond of exchanging a way of life for any one that carried with it the face of enterprize, I was determined to improve the reaſons that preſented itſelf of conſulting with this *Mogul*, how to bring about a matter ſo conſonant to my wiſhes, and urging him pretty ſtrenuouſly on that head, as he had already remarked; for given me all manner of aſſurances of his advice and aſſiſtances, he concluded by telling me, that a *Vacquil* had arrived with diſpatches from Alligore†, that were to be forwarded by him to Sujah Dowlah, with whom, as ſoon as he ſhould have ſome converſation, which would be in the evening, he would candidly give me his opinion of the matter, and a definitive anſwer, obſerved that the heat of the day was come on, and he

* In ſpeaking or writing of the Emperor, it is cuſtomary to ſtyle him *Patcha* or *Badſhaw*, which titles are ſynonymous.

† The name of the Emperor or before his inaugeration, by which name he is frequently ſpoken of in India.

he was going to repoſe, which, if I was diſpoſed to do, his attendants would wait on me, when I was ſhewn to an apartment, where was a long couch with camel's ſkins nicely cured, and *pallanpoes* ſpread thereon, over which hung a ſwing *punkah* on an hinge, about the ſize and form of half the leaf of a large oval table; it being made of a ſtout bow retained in a circular form, by a croſs piece of round wood or cane that formed the cord of the arch, and both ſerved for an axis, and a member of the implement, which was covered with ſilk in the manner the heads of drums are covered with parchment, having fringe about a foot deep round the edge of it; at the vertex or middle part of which bow, was faſtened a ſilk cord, that leading up to the ceiling through a little pulley or ſheeve, and paſſing down again obliquely through a ſmall hole made in one ſide of the wall for the paſſage of this cord through, was moved backward and forward by a ſervant or ſlave without, to fan away the muſquetoes, and maintain a breeze within the apartment, while thro' a lettice on the other ſide, that was made on purpoſe to admit the freſh air, was diſcoverable the arborage and verdure of a garden, from which the ſound of a band of Indoſtan muſic that was playing at intervals, gently reverberating with the circulation of the zephyrs that fanned the trees of this rural department conducing to repoſe.——— I ſoon was loſt in ſleep; and continued on the couch dreaming of *Patchas* and *Viziers*, till a young eunuch, about eighteen years of age, dreſſed like a prince, with ſcymiter and poignard, incruſted with diamonds, coming in, awoke me by daſhing roſe-water in my face from a *Golab Perch*, which he told me ſmiling, was by order of the *Nabob*, the rank and title *Ally Begkan* had borne from the day of his alliance with *Sujah Dowlah* by affinity, on which

ariſing,

ariſing, I was met by his excellency, who without preparing me for the viſit he had in his eye to make, propoſed my accompanying him in an excurſion without doors, attended by a ſingle eunuch, and an old matron (who was a *Caſhmerian* by birth) through a number of avenues of the *Killah*, which, though far from being magnificent, it being but a mud fort with a brick houſe erected within ſide of it, for the reſidence of a *Killadar*, was furniſhed well enough to anſwer all the purpoſes of a temporary abode for the Nabob, during the buſineſs he was then on of collecting the revenue, and reducing to reaſon a diſaffected ſet of ſubjects, who had of late been remiſs in the payment of their duties and taxes, viz. Rajahpoots and Zemindars. To return from which digreſſion, conducted by Ally Begkan through ſome number of paſſages to the interior part of the *Killah*, we ſtopped at a door, where an Abyſſinian eunuch, who had been ſeated, aroſe, and ſnipping off with a pair of ſheers, by order of his maſter, a label that was faſtened by ſilk threads, and on which was an impreſſion upon virgin wax, of the Nabob's private ſignet; according to an ancient and invariable cuſtom of theſe Aſiatic lords, who not confiding altogether in their ladies integrity, and the barriers alone of iron and ſteel of the apartments of their ſeraglios where they are ſequeſtered, have the additional ſecurity of locks and keys, and the impreſſion of their ſignatures; which label the Abyſſinian eunuch having cut, he opened a red leather caſe, (in which the padlock that faſtened the door we had come to was contained) that he pulled off, and with a key he had about him, unlocked the door, and letting us in, we paſſed through an antichamber this door was entrance to, covered with Perſian carpents, that lead into an interior apartment more elegantly ſet off; a canopy of crimſon ſattin fringed with

with gold, covereing the whole ceiling, and ſilver nets, decorated with pearls, lining its walls; where about thirty women were ſeated, with treble the number that were to be ſeen in a Varando that lead out of this place into a long gallery back adjacent to it, ſtanding on their legs, or paſſing to and fro attending them; ſome fanning them with *Puncahs*, ſome with *Chour s*, others daſhing roſe-water over them through *Golab Perches*, and others helping them to *Sherbetts*, almonds, raiſins, walnuts, pears, apples, and *Beatle*. We had taken theſe ladies at a non-plus; they were ſurpriſed, and no wonder; ſo unexpected and unprecedented an intruſion of a man, young or old, a ſtranger and an European too, and in company with the Faſdar, ſtruck them with amazement, and left them at a loſs what to do or ſay, until the Nabob telling them to be eaſy, that I was a friend, and more than that, I was his ſon, and that they muſt receive me as ſuch,—his princeſs (which rank I afterwards diſcovered ſhe had by birth, a woman of about forty years of age, a native of Candahar, and ſiſter to *Amud Shaw*, the *Durany*, commonly called *Abdallah*, or *Abdally*, the then reigning prince of Candahar) riſing, ſallamed me, when all the ſeraglio followed her example; which compliments being returned by me in the ſtyle of the country, *Ally Begkan* ſeating himſelf oppoſite to his wife, and placing me at his right hand, after a converſation of about half an hour, we retired.

During this viſit I was complimented with beatle, and when the ſurpriſe of the women was over, was aſked queſtions by ſix or ſeven of the leading characters amongſt them, ſuch as whether I underſtood the Perſian or Indoſtan language?—how long I had been in the country?—and whether the women in mine dreſſed in the manner they did? &c. &c. All which females, excepting his excellency's wife (who

was

was on the decline, and about a dozen years paſt her grand climacteric) were, I obſerved, the greateſt beauties amongſt them; that prevalent article beauty, (a ſtaple commodity) purchaſing favor and pre-eminence at the court of Badſhaws and Viziers, all over Aſia, and independent of their pretenſions to rank from deſcent, or parentage, owed their preſent exaltation and aſcendency to the ſuperiority of their charms, in which they excelled any women I ever ſaw in India before or ſince, to an inexpreſſible degree; for theſe were, if I may be allowed the compariſon, like concomitants to a Sun, ſhining in an exalted ſphere.———The ſelect pieces of Sujah Dowlah's ſeraglio eminent for an aſſemblage of the greateſt beauties in the world, one of Alligore's eldeſt daughters had been paying a viſit to the Vizier's queen, at Phazabad†, and this Zunnanah* of his highneſs, to do her honor, accompanied her on her way back to Eleabus, as far as Allybekan's, when they were detained by the civilities of his wife and family; for this good old Mogul advanced in years, though formerly remarkable for the number of women he had in his ſeraglio, confined his affections laterly to his firſt wife, by whom he had had five children, one of which was married to the Grand Vizier, as already obſerved.

I met this *Zunnannah* and its eſcort, on the banks of the Ganges, and aſſiſted in embarking the Badſhazadee‖: it was the moſt magnificent ſight I ever beheld,—a *Raſalladar* ‡, commanding a thouſand Mogul horſe, each cavalier rightly armed and dreſſed, mounted on Perſian barbs, led on the advanced guard

† A retiro of the Vizier's, built by himſelf, on the banks of the Gogra.

* A party of women.

‖ Similar to a field officer.

‡ An Emperor or King's daughter.

guard, while two lines of Indoſtan cavalry, compoſed of *Shakes*, *Syeds* and *Patans*, marched on each ſide the *Zunnannah*, which I call the centre, and a body of *Maratta Pullagars*, mounted on horſes and mares which *Rumchunderſunnes* had accommodated the Princeſs with, brought up the rear; the flanks of the *Zunnannah* being guarded by two hundred *Shutturwans*, equally divided, dreſſed in ſcarlet, and their camels covered with cloths of the ſame, fring'd with yellow ſilk, and top knots as big as pine apples, of black ſilk and ſilver threads, with taſſels of the ſame kind hanging to their ſides; while within, eunuchs on ſuperb horſes, with gold and ſilver ſtirrups and bits, ſilk bridles and ſaddles, and furniture compoſed of the ſame materials, kept prancing and parading within the different corps of cavalry and *Shutturwans*; between whom and the front, on three elephants in a row, without turrets, were ſeated behind the drivers, the *Bajannawallas* to ſound the *nobut*, a martial ſerenade of drums (equal in diameter to the bulge of butts and pipes) and trumpets of different ſizes and tones.——Chubdars, with ſilver maces in their hands, were ſcattered about the *Zunnannah*, all mounted on horſeback; and men, ſinging the praiſes of the Princeſs they were conducting, at intervals, and in concert with the Nobut, that kept a conſtant beating. The ladies were all conducted on Palanquins covered with crimſon velvet mantles, embroidered with gold, and deep fringes of the ſame, with peep holes in them to look thro'; and their attendants travelled in *Hackerries* covered with ſcarlet cloth and ſilk blinds, drawn by large milk white *guzerat* bullocks, with mantles on their backs of ſilk, ſattin or velvet, except the Badſhazadee, who was mounted on an elephant, in the centre of ſix others, in a turret covered with a mantle of ſattin ſprigged with diamonds and rubies, and fringed

fringed with emeralds and pearls; the elephant having round his neck bells of ſolid ſilver, and trappings of gold. On the foremoſt elephant was Meerzamany, the Vizier's eldeſt ſon, a very corpulent young fellow, about twenty four years of age; on the ſecond was Jungly Mungly, the ſecond ſon, and a handſome youth; and on the third *Morajah Dowlah*, the Emperor's uncle; while Mawboob, Buſſunt, and Leetaffat, (three young eunuchs of great truſt, belonging to the Vizier) filled the turrets of the three other elephants behind; with ſeveral *Sardars*§ mounted on horſeback and on elephants, who had joined the party to take their pleaſure, ſcowered the plains. Which eſcort having conducted the Princeſs to the ſide of the Ganges, where a bridge of boats was thrown acroſs, ſhe was received by another party, when the ladies attending her, and thoſe belonging to the Vizier, took leave of each other by interchanging their compliments thro' means of the *Chubdars*; when the *Shutterwans* diſcharged their muſkettoons, and the Vizier's party returned, and marched to Bangermau.

Having finiſhed our viſit to the *Zunnannah* as related, the Faſdar and I withdrew,—when he give audience to the Vacquil arrived from Eleabas; when returning, I aſked him what news from the Sultan? On which he ſhook his head and cried worſe and worſe! you muſt not think of disjointing yourſelf from your countrymen, nor joining the unfortunate itinerant Alligore. Some fatality, ſays this Faſdar, attends the ſteps of this prince, defeats all his attempts; his evil ſtars will not let him arrive to the pinnacle of his wiſhes. He is of a reſtleſs diſpoſition, and equally ſuſpicious; he has been ſo unfortunate in his undertakings, no one wiſhes to be concerned with him; will never ſuccced in his preſent

§ Gentlemen.

preſent ſcheme of getting himſelf eſtabliſhed on the throne of Delhy. The moment he leaves your brother, the *Toppee Wallas*, he is ruined, and will become a vagabond, and in the end, will be thrown by the contrivances of his enemies, into the hands of the Marattas; the legitimacy of his birth is diſputed, or be that as it will, the Engliſh, your countrymen, have made friends with Ragouby, who maſſacred Madarow; and countenance under the roſe, the ſteps he is taking for gaining the ſovereignty of *Pounah*, and affect to not diſpute the Maratta's right to the inheritance of the empire; you cannot, muſt not think of the ſtep at any rate; at preſent it would be equally as impracticable as that of your joining my ſon in law.——The enſuing ſeaſon, ſhould he in earneſt take the deſperate ſtep of joining the Marattas, and you ſhould happen to be upon the ſpot, he might perhaps not not refuſe your aſſiſtance, and the impediments that are in your way now, would no longer ſubſiſt. The truth of *Allybegkan*'s remarks were too evident to admit of diſpute, and conſoling myſelf with the Emperor's quitting the next year the Company's connection, and paying my court to him, I made myſelf eaſy on the ſubjects of *Shaw Aulim* and *Sujahdowlah*, and got all in readineſs to go on with my ſurvey.

No. 21.

On board the Peggy, Capt. Mackbridge, at an anchor in Ballaſore roads, bound to Madraſs.

To my Correſpondents in general.

IT is upwards of a year ſince I have ſet down to write to my friends, a multiplicity of affairs has totally prevented my continuing as uſual my correſpondents. I promiſed lady Caroline ——— a

further account of the women of this country, and other matters, and Mr. Chapman a deſcription of the buffaloe and tyger fights, and ſhall begin now with an account of my proceedings, and what offered to me worth notice, or committing to black and white, from the time I left Muxadabads, till my arrival at Bangarmau, and return here again by the way of Dacca and *Sundry-Bunder*, at Chittagang; by the way of Dacca, after leaving Bangermau, and return through the Sundry Bunder to Calcutta. On my leaving Muxadabads, I proceeded in my budgero, by the way of Bogwangollah, (the greateſt gunge and repoſitory of grain in Bengal) to Rajahmaul, on the banks of the Ganges, once the ſeat of empire during the power of the Hindoos, where the Company have a factory, and a fortreſs.——In that neighbourhood I remained a week, and had an opportunity of ſeeing a number of *Decoits*; at which place is a palace of black marble, of as ancient as curious conſtruction.

From Rajahmaul I proceeded to Monghere, where the Company have fortifications, it being their ſecond military department, their firſt being at Fort William, and the other at *Kaſſim Buzar*; this being one of the principal paſſes of the country, and ſo narrow (being cut through a ſolid rock) that a file of muſqueters, or a ſingle field piece can defend it againſt the invaſion of an army. From Monghere I proceeded to Patna, the largeſt and moſt populous city in the three kingdoms of Bengal, Bahar, and Orixar or Oriſſa, there being a greater concourſe of people in the markets and ſtreets, and about it's ſuburbs, than I ever beheld in any other city in any part of the globe, which is one of the principal ſettlements of the Company in India, where the French, Dutch and Danes, have likewiſe factories, and the Portugueſe and Italian miſſionaries of different orders; Jeſuits, Auguſtines,

Auguſtines, and Franciſcan and Dominican friars, who have churches or chapels there, and in ſhort in all the European ſettlements in India. At Patna and about it, the ſalt-petre and opium is produced, and *Kincobs*§, *Gulabuttons*†, *Muſhrooes*‡, *Chandarees*§, and a variety of other beautiful articles manufactured here, that the Company export to different parts of India, and to Europe. At Patna I had an opportunity of ſeeing Bulmonſin, the Beneras Rajah, who is the firſt Hindoo prince in riches and rank in theſe three kingdoms. He was then about 40 years of age, of a copper coloured complexion, and rather a pacific than predominant character in his face.——From Patna, I proceeded up the Ganges to Eleabas, where, for the firſt time I ſaw the Nabob, Sujah Dowlah. It was early in the morning, and he was mounted on a ſmall elephant, without a *Houdah*‖, ſtriding his neck himſelf, with his *punjah* in his hand, and a broad ſcymiter by his ſide His Highneſs was exactly five feet ten inches high, as I have been credibly informed, but appeared to be a taller man on his elephant; he was corpulant, without being fat, of a dark copper colour, wearing both beard and whiſkers, and in any garb, or under any circumſtances, would by a remarkable authority, and majeſty in his countenance, be known to be a perſon of repute. The circumſtance of his being mounted in this manner, attracted a greater crowd to ſee him than otherwiſe probably it would have aſſembled. He had been to pay the Patcha a viſit, and

§ A rich thick manufacture of ſilk, and gold or ſilver threads interwoven as a ground work, on which are bird's eyes or ſmall flowers reſembling bird's eye handkerchiefs.

† Striped ſilks, the thickneſs of luteſtring.

‡ Striped or checked ſilk and cotton, manufactured together.

§ Fine linens, reſembling cambrick.

‖ A turret.

was on his return to Phyzabad, when, remarkable for his courage, ſtrength, and feats of activity on elephants and horſeback, the boats not being in readineſs that were to have conveyed him and his retinue over the river; notwithſtanding it's breadth oppoſite the place, he changed the elephant he had paſſed through the city on, for the one I have already deſcribed, and mounting him in the manner above mentioned, he proceeded for the river ſide, when plunging in thus mounted, he croſſed this great ſtream in deſpite of a rapid current, and within a piſtol ſhot of the oppoſite ſhore, cut aſunder an alligator that attacked his elephant, and landed ſafe in about 20 minutes, in ſight of above a thouſand Europeans then at Patna, including their military.

From Patna I proceeded to Eleabas, which city ſtands on an angle of land that terminates where the confluence of the ſtreams of the Great Ganges and the river Jumnah meet, and is one of the grand paſſes of the empire.

At Eleabas, the other parties engaged in the ſurvey agreeable to appointment, met, when we compared our works; a few days after which, we took different routs, and I proceeded to Frackabad, and from thence to Bangermau; whence, after a week's ſtay, I paſſed by land through Lucknoar, and other towns in my way to Phyzabad, where I propoſed meeting my *Budgero* and other boats, with all diſpatch to avoid the approaching rains, which would interfere with the buſineſs I was upon, and had ordered the boats round by the way of the Gogra accordingly. During my ſtay at Bangermau, my leiſure hours were agreeably enough diſpoſed of, ſome of them in converſation with the *Faſdar*, wherein the accounts I gave him of Europe, the coaſt of Africa, its inhabitants, and the Weſt-Indies, &c. were not leſs agreeable to him, than were thoſe he gave of the interior parts of Aſia he

was

was acquainted with, and of his enterprizes amongſt the Mogul Tartars, Coſſacks, Ruſſians, and others, with his former General Nadir Shah, interſperſing them with anecdotes of that warrior's life, equally ſingular and intereſting, which creating an intimacy with Allybegkan, that amounted to a degree of friendſhip, that on his part he had remarkably demonſtrated, by the compliment he had paid me of carrying me into his *Zunnannah*, and conſidering me as one of his family; I had opportunities afforded me thereby, of obſerving the manners and ways of the boys and females belonging to him, aud the behaviour towards the children in the bringing of them up, ſufficient to enable me to form a general idea of the mode of education of both ſexes I have alluded to, that the Aſiatics in theſe parts are ſo remarkable for, as well as of the domeſtic œconomy of the ladies and females in theſe parts, that otherwiſe I might not have had in a continuation in the country of ſeven years, and agreeable to the promiſe I made you, I will give you a ſummary of my obſervations, if not in elaborate terms that will be repreſented without exaggeration.

The girls, when they have learned to walk, the uſe of ſpeech coming to them generally about the ſame time, have their baby cloths thrown aſide, and in their ſtead other dreſſes prepared for them, viz. long drawers, pizwagees, veils, ſaſhes, ſlippers, annulets, bracelets on their hands and arms, with necklaces, pendants for their noſes and ears, and round the neck, and *taveeges** in lockets to faſten round their arms, and mindy to tinge their finger and toe nails with, and as much care and exactitude obſerved by the mantua-makers in the meaſuring them and making up theſe cloaths, un-

* Lockets containing words out of the alcoran or *Shuſtrab*, intended as charms to fend off miſhaps.

der the direction of their mothers and female connections, as though they were preparing wedding ſuits; the ſame care is likewiſe taken by the lapidaries, jewellers and goldſmiths, in the accommodating the ornamental *et-ceteras* that they may faſhioned in exact proportion to their limbs, and the parts they are intended for, particularly with reſpect to the diameter of the rings that are to be ſuſpended by a pendant over the young miſſes lips in queſtion, who, always prior to this firſt inveſtiture of their ſex, have their noſes and ears bored, while lulled into a profound ſleep, to palliate or prevent the ſenſation of pain.

Thus dreſſed will theſe infants, in the arms of maids, be carried up and down the houſes and gardens they belong to, and out in *Hackeries* or *Budgeroes* daily, not omitting plunging them every morning in cold water, to brace up their nerves and increaſe their bodily ſtrength, and handed from one relation to another to receive their carcaſes; from that period until they arrive at the age of between three or four years, (at which time children in theſe parts are one third more mature and advanced in their bodily and mental faculties, and adults in proportion, than cotemporaries of either ſex of the ſame age amongſt the nations in Europe) when they begin to qualify them for the future neceſſary purpoſes of life, by having them inſtructed in all the different branches requiſite for a female to be acquainted with; as for inſtance, embroidery, plain needle-work, reading and writing the Perſian language, the compoſition of the ſame by ſetting them taſks, and pointing out to them ſubject to expatiate on verbatim, and by giving them dialogues to get off by heart, and repeat before companies occaſionally at home or abroad; and ſubjects to write letters upon to each other, by way of miſcellaneous correſpondence, together with dancing,

vocal

vocal and inſtrumental muſic; and accompanying their mothers and females belonging to their families by ſun riſe in the mornings to bathe, and taught to copy them in the proſtrations they make at prayer, and the remarkable reſerve and œconomy with which they diveſt themſelves of their morning robes and conduct themſelves in their baths until they return to their apartments and dreſs themſelves in freſh attire. By this aſſociation a ſimilitude of manners and improvement in their intellectual parts, and exterior deportment, are acquired, that growing up with them, ſubjoined to their other collateral inſtructions, by the time they arrive at eleven or twelve years of age, compleat their education, and qualify them for the ſociety of male or female; while the boys are inveſted at the ſame time with dreſſes and ornaments ſuited to their ſex; and from that time until they arrive at ſeven years of age, when they are circumciſed, and ſome military additions are made to their dreſſes, their hair ſhaved off their heads, excepting a ſingle lock which is left on the top of them, as a diſtinction to indicate their being Mahometans, both till then and afterwards, accompanying their fathers and male connections in their daily adorations and bathings, as well as excurſions abroad on elephants or horſes, which they are taught early to ride and manage, while they acquire health and ſtrength by theſe exerciſes and others, as for inſtance, the drawing the bow, and diſcharging arrows, ſwimming for wagers againſt currents, and diving, from great heights, into deep waters, together with the literary inſtructions they receive from their preceptors within doors, by adhering to the precepts of all theſe different maſters, and following the examples of their lofty connexions, in point of decorum and manly behaviour, fit themſelves in their ſphere, to

fill

fill ſuch offices as their merits, fortunes, or different intereſts may obtain them.

Having finiſhed my buſineſs in the neighbourhood of Bangermau, I took leave of the Faſdar, and by the way of Lucknoar, as I mentioned, proceeded to Phyzabad to join my *Budgero* and department there, where I viſited the Vizier, and preſented him with a *Nazur** in *Golabbaug*,† by Morajah Dowlah and a ſon of Allybegkan, and invited to the *Toppe Connor*‡ by monſieur Sanſon the commandant, ſaw the Vizier review his ten battalions of Seapoys and train of artillery, conducted by the Europeans mentioned in former letters. From Phyzabad I croſſed the Gogra, a large river that diſcharges itſelf into the Ganges, diſpatched my boat to *Chunnan Choprach*, facing Patna, and proceeded to Gorackpore, where the Faſdar, a Mogul, entertained me with a *Notch* and a fight with a wild buffaloe, and tigers; when a tiger being brought forth in a cage, was let looſe by his keepers, who, the buffaloe at the firſt onſet meeting, (though larger and more corpulent than any ox I ever ſaw, and longer in the body by two feet) overſet him and daſhed his brains out with his horns, which were in a manner ſhapeleſs, reſembling billets of wood as long as a tall man's thigh, and 8 inches thick at the lower parts, when a ſecond tygreſs being let looſe on him, he ruſhed at her head-foremoſt, but miſſing of his aim, by a ſtart ſhe took ſideways, ſhe leaped on his back, and with the talons of her hind feet in his neck and ſhoulders, and fore feet in his hind haunches, with her teeth fixed in his loins, tore out his back bone, and killed him dead upon the ſpot; and not having been fed for two days before, in order to make her more voracious, tore out his entrails, buried her head in his body, ſatiated herſelf on the fleſh, and glutted

* Park of Artillery. † Garden of roſes.

glutted herſelf with the blood, till, with the heat of the day and fatigue of the combat, intoxicated with the buffaloe's gore, ſhe fell a ſleep and laid in that ſituation in the beams of the ſun.

From Gorrackpore I proceeded through the *jungle**, where frequently at a diſtance, I ſaw herds of elephants feeding in the wilderneſs with their young, ſome of which, by the aſſiſtance of my refractor, I could diſcover to be no larger than young bullocks, and others as ſmall as grown hogs. This wilderneſs is equally habited by tigers, leopards, baboons, and apes of all ſorts and ſizes, elks, deer, antelopes, innumerable jackalls, ſerpents, alligators and crocodiles; of the bird kind, eagles, vultures, pilicans, hawks, kites, peacocks, all preying (beaſts and birds) the one preying on the other. In croſſing which wilderneſs, penetrating the country to the northward, I diſcovered the Napal hills, where I was obliged to precipitate my march, in order to avoid the *Rajah poots* of thoſe mountains, then out upon the ſcout to intercept the Company's ſurveyors and detachments ſent to explore their country, and diſcover the paſſage up thoſe hills, in order to come at the knowledge of the rich gold mines their country is replete with; and one and twenty days from the time I left Brangermau, I arrived at *Chunnam Choppah*, when I embarked in my budgero, and proceeded with the reſt of my boats by the way of *Jillinghee* to Dacca, one of the largeſt cities in Bengal, and capital of a province, and famous for its muſlin manufactures, that are fabricated by men who work under groves of trees, in walks reſembling rope-walks, where they have the threads of the muſlins extended on bamboo ſtands, with croſs pieces on them, and traverſed through and through with ſhuttles in this manner, without being manufactured, as ſome have imagined, in a

* Wilderneſs.

loom, which cloths being firſt taken off theſe bamboo implements, tho' of book muſlin, which is of the firſt ſort, are as thick as callicoes, till they have undergone a variety of waſhings by the *Dobens**. From Dacca, I proceeded down the Great Ganges to Chittagan. Chittagon is at the bottom of the bay of Bengal, and is the eaſternmoſt of the Company's ſettlements on the continent infra Ganges; is a very mountainous country, and ſo ſubject to earthquakes, that half a year never paſſes away without ſome two or three ſhocks. This province joins to Aracan, on the confines of the empire of China, eminent for it's riches, and the idols of ſolid gold which are in the temples of it's capitol. —The inhabitants of Aracan are remarkable for their dexterity in the uſe of bows and arrows, as well as for their depredations by ſea and land;— they having frequently in the bay of Bengal, by keeping the ſhore along, and ſcreening themſelves and their boats amongſt the iſlands in the mouths of the Great Ganges, ſeized upon large *burs*, Company's ſloops, and once or twice, ſome twenty years paſt, a brig or two, and carried them up the rivers in the country, where they have kept the people priſoners with ſtout wires run through their noſes, and chains to their hands and feet, till the Company have ſent ranſomes compoſed of European goods, to releaſe them, which, with the Dacca decoits†, who infeſt theſe parts, and make it

* Waſhermen, employed by the Company to waſh out and dreſs their cloths, which they do by ſoaking them in water, and folding them up into convenient lengths, and then beating them againſt notched boards that are placed againſt the edges of ponds for that purpoſe, in which it is ſuppoſed one fifth of the cotton employed in the fabrication of theſe cloths is expended.

† Boors out of the inexplored parts of the country, to the N. E of Ducca, who come down to the edge of the Ganges, ſeize boats, and with them rob and plunder, then retire back to their receſſes.

it a practice of ſcuttling the veſſels they ſeize on, and after deſpoiling them, frequently maſſacre the crews, renders it neceſſary to uſe ſome precautions to prevent being ſurprized by either in the night; as in the day time, a ſingle four pounder, with ſix or ſeven men armed with muſketry, would be ſufficient to keep at a diſtance a fleet of ſuch craft. My buſineſs called upon my ranging theſe ſhores along, and gave me an opportunity of informing myſelf of their haunts and force, which, with reſpect to the *Muggs*, the name which the inhabitants of Aaracan go by amongſt the Europeans in India; their excurſions are confined to the precincts of their own ſhores, and the mouths of the Ganges, a ſight of which they never chooſe to loſe, or venture out of the reach of, ſo far but what they may regain by the turn of the ſea breeze; and the Dacca decoits, whoſe excurſions are of leſs eccentricity, never exceeding the bounds of the tides, with which they paſs up and down the *embouchures* of the rivers that enter themſelves into this part of the bay of Bengal. Any veſſels to the ſouthward of theſe parts, in a defenceleſs ſituation, need not apprehend any attack from theſe quarters, whatever they may from pirates of other parts in the bay of Bengal, which, as a ſubject intereſting to navigation in general, that I have promiſed to comprehend in the ſeries of my letters to my correſpondents, and comply equally with the promiſe I made them, of giving them an account likewiſe of the monſoon and trade winds in theſe parts; I will embrace this opportunity of dedicating a few lines to that effect, which, as capable of being comprehended in a narrow compaſs, will anſwer all the purpoſes of a larger diſplay, therefore will quit the ſubject of pirates at preſent, and enter upon that of the winds called monſoons. The monſoons are winds that blow and ſhift their direction periodically with the

the ſeaſons all over India, and are diſtinguiſhed by the names of the eaſterly and weſterly monſoons. In the bay of Bengal, the weſterly monſoons begins to ſet in between the beginning of September and the latter end of October, which ſhifting of the monſoons is generally attended with ſuch violent and ſudden alteration of the weather, that the Company, to prevent the loſs of their ſhipping, and the underwriters that of a greater riſk of their inſurance, have made it a principal article in their police, and the former made it an eſtabliſhed order for the ſhips to leave the bay of Bengal, on or before the 24th of October, on which day the flag ſtaff at Fort St. George is ſtruck, that the ſhips at anchor in the roads may regulate themſelves accordingly, a precaution neceſſary, not to be conſidered in a trivial light; as a proof of which, I was ſtanding on the beach at Madraſs, in a tremendous hurricane, that attended the ſhifting of the monſoon alluded to, that the ſurf (which is the biggeſt ſurf in the known world) running mountain high, made an innovation on the ramparts of the fort, that filled ſome of the narrow avenues of the town up to the eves of the houſes with water; in which inundation, ſome few people were drowned; which wave, in its receſſion, carried away a *Huvledar*, and a Seapoy that was centinel on the ſaliant angle of the baſtion, back into the ſea, where they were drowned; notwithſtanding which dangerous ſurf, a *Kattamaran*, with a Malabar on top of it, landed ſafe from an Indiaman, then riding with three whole cables veered away to their better ends, and three anchors a head, her yards and top-maſts ſtruck, and lower yards a-portland; which foundered the ſame evening, and bulged, it was ſuppoſed, by ſtriking with a lift of the ſea, notwithſtanding ſhe was then in ſix fathom water.

This

This monſoon blows conſtantly between the north and weſt, in a direction of about Weſt N. Weſt, from about that time above menticned, for ſix months ſucceſſively, when it changes and blows on the oppoſite point of compaſs, and ſo on alternately; which change of the ſeaſon is called ſhifting of the monſoon, which is equally attended with as hazardous weather as the former; which latter monſoon is called the eaſterly monſoon, it blowing between the ſouth and the eaſt; while the other, for contradiſtinction ſake, is called the weſterly monſoon;—which winds blow in diametrically oppoſite directions in the ſame ſeaſons of the year, on the weſterly ſide of the peninſula, the ſouth eaſterly monſoon blowing from that part of the coaſt of Africa which is interſected by the equator, to the verge of the coaſt of Malabar, from April till October; and the north weſterly monſoon blowing the other ſix months *via verſa*. From which information, any captain of a ſhip could not fail to regulate himſelf by; and with reſpect to any other pirates than thoſe I ſpoke of already, excepting the Coolies, who infeſt the coaſt of India from the mouth of the river Indus, and all along ſhore to Diu, (a Portugueſe ſettlement) to the gulph of Guzerat and coaſt of Malabar; and extend their cruiſes from the northward of Surat, down to Cape Comorin, the ſouthernmoſt peninſula of Indoſtan, and off the iſland of Ceylon, and ſometimes to the ſouthward of the Laccadavies; and a ſmall ſquare rigged veſſel or ſo that Hyder Ally at times when at variance with the Engliſh, under Maratta colours or his own, may equip at Mangolore*, capable of ſeizing on a veſſel unarmed or unprepared, are all the veſſels that can come under the denomination of pirates this ſide the Chineſe ſeas, from which

* A fortified ſeaport town belonging to Hyder, on the coaſt of Malabar.

which any danger might be apprehended,—the Mallays in the ſtraits of Malacca, and on the iſland of Sumatra, never extending any of their purſuits ſeaward from the eaſtern coaſt of the Bay of Bengal. What may or may not be apprehended from theſe Coolies, Maratta or Mangalore cruiſers, you will be able to form a judgment of when I deſcribe to you the magnitude of their veſſels, and their warlike equipments. I ſhall begin with the *Coolies*, as having from ages back made a practice of ranging the ſhores along, and the coaſt of Malabar, &c. as above deſcribed, and making prizes of what veſſels they could maſter, and carrying them into their ports. Theſe Coolies are a race of Hindoos that inhabit the coaſt of India from the borders of the river Indus to the ſouth-weſternmoſt part of the gulph of Guzerrat, the major part of which coaſt being frontiered with dangerous rocks and ſhoals, as well as the rivers and creeks that lead up to the places where the principal haunts are, on account of the intricacy of their navigation inacceſſible to any craft but their own, equip boats of different dimenſions, of a ſize from fifteen to thirty or forty tons burthen; ſome with two and others with three maſts, with light cotton ſails and rigging, and *coir* cables §;—in which boats, furniſhed with long bow chaſers from a bore of three to ſix pounders, and men armed with muſkets, ſwords and piſtols, with always a black *Topſee-wallas* or two on board of each boat, they will find their way through the intermediate paſſages of theſe ſhoals, and extend their purſuits down the coaſts I have deſcribed, attack and take any veſſels belonging to the Marattas, with whom they are generally at peace, and ſend or carry them into their ports; but having latterly met with ſuch warm

§ Made of the fibrous coats of cocoa nuts, of the ſize of a ſmall hawſer, and ſome large and ſtrong enough to ride a 70 gun ſhip.

warm reception from veſſels belonging to gentlemen in the Company's ſervice, and private adventurers in the country, as to have convinced them of the folly of attempting any veſſels of a reſpectable appearance, they now keep themſelves aloof, and ſeldom or never make a larger prize than a cotton boat or other coaſter, or ſometimes a fleet of them in their way backwards and forwards to Bombay, and the mouth of the river Indus, and others thereabouts; for though they will run within the Grand Carranjar, and the iſlands that barrier the bay of Bombay, ſo cloſe as to be ſeen from the windows of the houſes of the ſettlement, in hopes of cutting off ſome ſmall craft they eſpy coaſting along the ſhore, they will on a ſmall armed ſloop of the Company's appearing, make off like a flock of geeſe;—though upon the whole, a number of them might in a calm hamper a veſſel ſo, by firing at her with their bow chaſers, and reſolutely rowing up to her from all quarters, and boarding her, make a prize of her; which they have ſucceeded in ſome three or four times, and no more, ſince the reign of the celebrated Angria, whom the Company took priſoner and entirely ruined, together with his naval force.—— With reſpect to Hyder Ally's ſhips, under Maratta colours or his own, they are generally old crazy veſſels, patched up in his port of Mangalore, armed with old ruſty uneven guns of different lengths and calibres, manned by Laſcars, and commanded by Europeans of a low ſtamp, and *Callofringbees* or black Chriſtians, who at the ſight of a veſſel with but a cannonade on their quarter deck, that ſtands her way without avoiding them, will keep their diſtance.

I have now given you an account of the monſoons that blow in theſe ſeas, and of the different pirates that infeſt them;—I ſhall now return to Chittagon, where having finiſhed my buſineſs, I took

took my leave of the chief, and of the gentlemen of the factory, and by the way of Dacca, I returned to Calcutta, where having orders to proceed to Madraſs, in the veſſel I date my letter from, we dropped down to Ingillee, and from thence to Ballaſore roads, and are now getting under ſail in order to proceed to the ſouthward.'

No. 22.

To my friends and Correſpondents in general, in Europe.

I Have been now four months at Madraſs, during which time I have been witneſs to tranſactions that to relate at large would fill a volume: I muſt cut them ſhort, and contract them into a narrow compaſs.—I ſhall begin with my arrival at Madraſs, which was eight and forty hours after leaving Bengal, when we dropped anchor in the roads, within half a league of the fort, bearing weſt and by ſouth,—when two Muſſoullah boats from the ſhore, and a *Kattamaran* § came along ſide; the *Kattamaran* with a letter from the governors meſſieurs Bouchier and Dupree, and the Maſſoula boats to convey the captain, and any paſſengers who might be on board, on ſhore; in one of which I embarked with capt. M'Bride, and landed amidſt a very

§ Is made of three junks of a very light wood tree, and laſhed together in the rough with cords; the piece retained in the middle being in general about nine feet in length, and the other two pieces on each ſide two feet ſhorter, and are all of a thickneſs, ſeldom exceeding eight inches in diameter; to the one end of which they have a rope to hawl their Kattamaran by, or faſten her to a ſhip's ſide with. With which Kattamaran theſe Mallabars will face the ſurf, hawl her thus by the cords into it, and mounting it, ſet croſſed with a ſlit bamboo

a very great ſurf,—when I waited on the governors with letters of buſineſs, and recommendation; who were ſo emerged in the concerns and negotiations with Hyder, that they were obliged to take turn about night and day to receive and return anſwers to diſpatches from their own army, and from that quarter. They have invaded Hyder's country, poſſeſſed themſelves of ſeveral of his ſubjects not taken in arms, and among the reſt ſome principal women, and ſome of the males belonging to the family of Sandyſyab, and fixed their colours in ſeveral towns and hamlets, in the name of Mamhudilly, the nabob of Arcot; to whom they pretended theſe places, with a conſiderable more territory beyond them, belonged. In return to which he came down to Madraſs with his army, laid the whole country waſte, and has obliged them in ſhort to pay him his own demands for the expence they had put him at by the war: made them return theſe families of conſequence they had taken priſoners, and ſign the moſt ſhameful conceſſions ever made by Britiſh ſubjects to a foreign power; which put a blot in the Company's eſcutcheon it is thought they never will be able to obliterate; which conceſſions being ſigned April 1769, and ſecurities given for the mutual performance of the contracts, Hyder's troops, who but a few days before had been the terror of the whole ſettlement, entered the

boo of about nine feet in length, digging in the ſea, firſt on one ſide and then on the other, make their way good through a dangerous ſurf, and even in dark nights, for the lucre of a *pagoda*, (i. e. equal in value to nine ſhillings ſterling) extraordinary, on one of them embark, cut through the mountainous waves, and gain the ſhips in the roads, deliver a *chitty*, i. e. letter, on board of an Indiamen, and return with an anſwer to the town within a few hours; and what is more extraordinary, three of theſe Kattamarans double manned, will, by converting one of their Kattamarans into what the ſeamen call a Spaniſh windlaſh, and the other into a heaver, purchace with a buoy-rope an Indiaman's ſheet anchor.

the black town and the gates of Madraſs, and were ſeen bartering the plunder they had taken from the Company's connections, with the merchants and ſhopkeepers of theſe two places;—during which time I viſited Hyder Ally, within a few miles of *Poulay-Malay*, where he received me with his ſon, in his tent, then a handſome tall youth, of an olive coloured complexion, his father being conſiderably darker, about five feet ten inches high, corpulent and luſty. It was midnight when I entered his camp and was ſhewn to his tent, when aſking my buſineſs, on my informing him that it was nothing but the deſire I had of ſeeing ſo great a man, he ſmiled, and ordering me a pair of ſuperfine ſhawls, as a mark of his eſteem, I took leave of him, and with an eſcort he ordered me, of a dozen *Pullagar*§ horſe, they conducted me to the gates of the line of circumvallation that had been formed round Madraſs, from ſea to ſea, to keep off his horſe,—when knowing the counterſign, I was admitted by the captain of the guard, and returned to a tavern in the black town,——I taking the opportunity of viſiting the Nabob in the night, that it might not be known to the council. A few days after this, he marched towards his capitol, and general Smith had orders, which were with the conſent of Hyder, to watch his motions, by marching within a few miles of his rear, till he had entirely quit the boundaries of Mamhudilly's territory. I continued three months after this in and about Madraſs, where I had an opportunity of ſeeing their chintz pallampores ſtamped and printed, which proceſs differing but little from that performed in Europe, I think it needleſs to relate; when a veſſel being ready to ſail, in which I propoſed returning to Bengal, I prepared for my departure accordingly.

§ Horſemen armed with lances of twenty feet long, which they handle very dexterouſly.

accordingly,—about which identical time the attention of the Europeans on the ſpot, and the inhabitants, was taken up with the appearance of a comet with a remarkable large atmoſpherical tail that from the head to the extremity of the ſaid tail occupied the ſpace of near thirty degrees in the heavens: its motion was direct, and from an obſervation ſome of us took of its path, its orbit was very elliptical, and moved with ſuch velocity that it was not viſible in thoſe parts fifteen days after its appearance, when it was in the zenith of Madraſs.—From which comet's appearance, the Bramins foreboded famines, wars, &c.

I proſecuted my voyage to Bengal, and in a hundred hours after my leaving Madraſs, arrived at Calcutta, where I was employed anew in the buſineſs of the ſurvey; but theſe orders being countermanded, I was ſent under the pretence of a ſurvey to aſſiſt in finding out ſuch of the inhabitants about Burdawan and Midnopore, and interior to thoſe places as might, under the colour of their not having paid the back taxes due to the *Sircar* of the *Soubah*, be (if monied men) ſent priſoners to the Preſidency, in order to be ſqueezed, for that is the technical term uſed in India by Europeans, for extortion, which afforded me an opportunity of being witneſs to the many unwarrantable means by which the Engliſh Eaſt-India Company's ſervants, excluſive of their commercial emoluments, acquire their rapid and immenſe fortunes; amongſt a number of which, that I was witneſs to, while on this underhand buſineſs in the back part of the country, were the following: on a ſenior, merchant, factor, writer, or any other of the Company's ſervants being informed by their Harcaras of a rich Bramin's daughter being on her way to be married, to ſeize on the company and retinue, on pretence of miſtaking the Bramin for an offender they were

in

in queſt of; convey theſe people to a convenient retired place, there threaten to ſacrifice a bull, cow, or calf, and drench him with the broth of the creature out of a horn; whilſt the young bride and females attending her, would, on the other hand, be threatened with being diſhonoured, if a lack of rupees, or ſuch a quantity of money as theſe gentlemen ſhould think proper to exact, was not produced and ſecurities given till the ſtipulated ſum was paid.

Amonſt the Gentoos, the bull, cow, or calf, is venerated and occaſionally deified, and excepting the Rajahpoots, none of theſe people will taſte animal food of any kind; and ſo tenacious in the obſervation of this rigid precept of their religion, that even ſeveral vegetables there are they will not eat; as for inſtance, onions, carrots, radiſhes, &c. Onions, why? becauſe if they excite not your pity when prepared to be ate, they extract, they will tell you, tears, and ſhould induce you to refrain from devouring them: reaſons, which in the eyes of European nations, however abſurd to them, are irreſiſtable; and carrots and radiſhes are equally compaſſionated in their ſtate of vegetation, on account of the ſanguine tincture of their roots, and the fibrous nature of their texture—ſo analogous, as they will tell you, to blood, ſinews and bones: and a drop of blood from a bull, cow, or calf, to fall on a Gentoo, contaminates him; directly he loſes his native purity, and can no longer aſſociate with his tribe; his neareſt and deareſt relations even cannot, or dare not receive him; and equally ſcrupulous, or rather circumſpect in their conduct towards the fair ſex; a man to lay his bare hands on the hands and arms of a female, defiles her, and ſhe is exterminated for ever her caſt or tribe.

It is not ſurpriſing then that people ſo tenacious of their religious rites and cuſtoms, and delicate with reſpect to their ideas of women, ſhould rather than

than have their deities ſacrificed, themſelves polluted, and their ladies diſhonoured, ſurrender up a lack of rupees, or more in meaſure, to their pecuniary abilities, to avoid incurring the formidable penalties of theſe avaricious *Toppe Wallas*.

The buſineſs that I was employed upon took me up about ſix months, during which time I became tolerably initiated into the various myſteries of ſqueezing; when, returning to Calcutta, I was diſmiſſed the ſervice, for refuſing to give an account of a quantity of rupees I received, that I thought myſelf entitled to as much as the Inquiſitors.—— about which time a famine happened that ſwept off within the ſpace of four months, according to the computation of the people of the country, half a million of inhabitants; entirely ariſing from the meaſures adopted for the emolument of the Company and its ſubſtitutes, which took place as follows:

A monoply of grain of all ſpecies was thought of, and it was decreed in council at Calcutta, that all the ghee, wheat, rice, Indian corn, bodgero, gram and grain in general, within the three provinces of Bengal, Behar and Orixa (on the pretext of meaſuring and ſharing it for the reſpective proprietors) ſhould be delivered up to the Company's agents on pain of death, confiſcation, or impriſonment, at ſuch a ſtipulated price; and officers appointed to ſee it done. The mandates were obeyed, all the granaries ranſacked, and ſeapoys put over them till godowns were built for the depoſiting theſe articles; and within three months from this decree's having paſſed, no quantity exceeding a ſeer (of ghee, or grain) could be procured without the Company's chop, and that at an exorbitant rate, from the mouth of the Great Ganges, to the utmoſt confines of the above mentioned extenſive provinces. Money could not at laſt purchaſe it: it was a reſerve made, the Company ſaid, for a time

time of need. What were the effects of the monoply? It produced a famine throughout the conntry. Gentoos and Mahometans would be ſeen begging aloud for *routtee*; and however contrary to the tenets of their reſpective religions, the latter abhorring ſwine's fleſh, and the former, to them all animal food as obnoxious, particularly beef. The calls of nature breaking through all religious ties, glad were theſe famiſhed people, the Gentoos, to devour the fleſh of the cow; and the Mahometan's ſwine's fleſh, which pollutes, according to the alcoran, both body and ſoul, and excludes them for ever the manſions of the bleſſed.

The famine increaſed; the natives began to die for hunger in abundance, inaſmuch that the ſtreets of Calcutta were ſo beſtrewed with dead bodies, that it made it neceſſary for people to have their palanquins hung round with ſprigs of rue, and chaffindiſhes with burning charcoal and frankincenſe evaporating in them, to keep off the noxious fumes of the dead bodies; for ſo thick were the human carcaſes, that the bearers, in narrow ſtreets, and at the turnings of corners, were obliged to walk over them; the dead bodies increaſing daily it was more than the Hallalcores and Sewerwallas could do to keep the ſtreets clear of them, though they were well paid for throwing them into the adjacent rivers.

Men, women and children, ſtaggering after paſſengers, craving for alms, unable to hold out any longer, would be ſeen to fall amongſt other expiring Gentoos and Mahometans, to ſhun the common fate of their famiſhed countrymen; while the name of Allah by the Mahometans, and Bogwan by the Gentoos, which ſignifies God, in their reſpective languages, alternately rung by peals in one's ears, would add conſiderably to the horror and awfulneſs of the ſcene.

The

The banks and ſides of the river Hughly, which runs by Calcutta, lined with the bodies of theſe unhappy people, attracting in prodigious numbers the jackalls, piadogs, pillicans, Braming kites, vultures, and carrion crows, with which this country abounds; the dead bodies and ſome of them but expiring (men, women and children) ſcreened from the eye by theſe contending parties of voracious animals, and the amazing volumes of flies that the ſtench had drawn together, formed a ſcene as horrid as obnoxious to behold.

The quadrupedes, ſome of them ſatiated with their repaſt, would be ſeen ſleeping, ſome watching, and others baſking in the ſun; whilſt ſome finiſhing and beginning their meal, interrupted by the intruſion of new comers (four footed animals and winged fowl) ſkirmiſhes would enſue, and frequently terminate in a general battle, in which all parties would be indiſcriminately engaged,—the crow, kite, vulture, dog and jackcall, pell mell; at which juncture, ſhould caprice or curioſity lead a ſpectator to fire a gun towards them, flocks of fowl would riſe in bodies, thick and extenſive enough to caſt an obvious ſhadow to conſiderable diſtances on the banks of the river, that would ſeem to darken the adjacent ſhore.

After the height of this famine was over, the news being confirmed at Calcutta of the Badſhaw having broke with the Engliſh, in a ſmall *Budgero*, with a fixed determination of joining him I ſet off, with a few attendants and a Banyan, one whom I could confide in, for Eleabas, and proceeded up the Ganges to above Frakabad, where in a creek, a few miles from that city, I harboured my *Budgero* not chooſing to be ſeen by the Engliſh then at Canpore with Sir Robert Barker, the then commander in chief of their troops; and made Frakabad my reſidence, where I was accommodated with an eligible

gible houſe for me and my attendants, by order of the *Nabob* Muſſoffre Jung, a Patan, about eighteen years of age, where I waited until the Engliſh took leave of the Patcha and returned to Bengal, which as a very intereſting event, before I proceed on a detail of any other matters, I will give you an account of the Badſhaw's motive for this ſtep, and of the ſituation of his affairs when I arrived at this place.

The Badſhaw having early diſcovered the ſiniſter views of the Engliſh Eaſt-India Company, had a long while determined on ſtriking up a confederacy with the Marattas, who, glad to liſten to any propoſition that might favor a plan they had in view, of laying all the country without Bulmonſin, the Beneras Rajah, Sujahdowlah's, and the Company's territory, under contribution, affected to make it a buſineſs on purpoſe to march for, in order to join Alligore, who receiving aſſurances from Rumchundergunnis, Tucojah-hulkah and Sindia, to that effect he regulated himſelf accordingly, and Nannaby, an important Maratta, and a Bramin, likewiſe with Sindia, otherwiſe Petellzibe, and Tucojah-hulkah, (three powerful chiefs) moved their armies from the Decan, and croſſing the Jumnah, encamped in Anterbade, while Nagebekan, an enterpriſing Mogul, of repute in the Badſhaw's houſhold, augmented his body guard to the number of 6000 Mogul horſe, and engaged about double the number of Indoſtan cavalry, with a proportion of Indoſtan Burgondoſſes, perhaps a thouſandmen, viz. mercenaries, the Badſhaw reſolved to take the field; and riding through the gates of Eleabas mounted on an elephant, followed by his Zunnannah and confidents, attended by his court, and the two battalions of Seapoys the Company had all along alotted him for his ſafeguard, he croſſed the Great Ganges in a boat without diſmounting,

mounting, and in a few hours afterwards joined the Maratta army on the banks of the Ganges, and encamped; having, prior to this, ſignified his intentions to the Britiſh commander in chief, Sir Robert Barker, then on the ſpot, who remonſtrated to the Emperor with all his eloquence and artifice in vain, to decline all thoughts of proſecuting ſuch a plan, pointing out to him the inexpediency of taking the field, and expoſing himſelf to the mercy of a rapacious ſet of troops; but the Pacha, tired out with the reiterated impertinances of the Engliſh and their barefaced impoſitions, reſolutely ſet forward as deſcribed, and joined this new formed connection as intended, who received him with all the marks of friendſhip in their power, and Eleabas evacuated in a manner by this ſtep of the Mogul, it taking wind through the country, his fortunes were followed by ſuch a number of opulent men, bankers and merchants from all parts, who, having experienced the cruel oppreſſions of Clive, Cartier, Verelſt and Sikes, while at Caſſambuzer and Bouchier, and Dupee at Madraſs, with Hornby at Bombay, and their agent in general, eagerly embraced this opportunity to ſave their lives and fortunes, and travelling back up into the country again in diſguiſe, by the ſame unfrequented by ways, &c. they firſt paſſed to join the Engliſh, gained the Patcha's army, and offering him their pecuniary aſſiſtance, he found himſelf unexpectedly in a condition to augment his forces, and add ſtrength to his credit, while the provinces of Bengal, Behar and Orixa, the vicinities of Madraſs, Bombay and Surat, felt a ſudden want of monied men to furniſh them as uſual, with loans upon their bonds. A few days after this the Badſhaw moving within four miles of Frakabad, and the Maratta army having changed their front to the rear, in order to proceed on towards the north, I em-

braced this opportunity to viſit him, when I was inſtantly introduced by Akborillykan, an *Aumeer*, and on my preſenting him with a *nazur*, conſiſting of a dagger ſtudded with diamonds, (Allybegkan in return, to a brace of handſome piſtols had made me a preſent of) he ordered me a horſe and ſword, which is conſidered as a great mark of honor; when I was conducted to the entrance of the court to pay my devoirs, which I did by ſallaming, during which my name was pronounced aloud, as likewiſe the Badſhaw's, by the Chubdar's attendants, when returning to the throne I was welcomed by Shaw Aullim to his court.——This happened to be his birth day, and the Maratta army and his own embraced the opportunity of celebrating his inauguration, on which occaſion all the *Omrahs* of his houſhold, and generals of his army were aſſembled; a *varando*, ſupported with eight pillars was erected for that purpoſe, that had a canopy underneath it of purple velvet, embroidered with brilliant diamonds, and fringed with rows of pearls, emeralds, rubies, ſapphires, and other jems, under which was a throne with ſeven ſteps on, the upper one of which was a chair without a back to it, upon which he ſat with his ſeven eldeſt legitimate ſons, viz. Murzahjumakbux the eldeſt, about 26 years of age, on his right hand, and Sukundarſhaw, a tall young fellow, of a light cane coloured complexion, about 20 years of age, on his left hand, (both ſtanding) with Akborſhaw his third ſon, a beautiful youth, about 15 years of age, ſeated on the ſecond ſtep downwards, and Solomonſhaw, a little boy, about 7 years of age, and three younger boys below thoſe three, all magnificently dreſſed with diamond creſcents in their turbans, ſcymitars by their ſides, and poignards by their waſtes. I attended the *Durbar** five hours, during which

* Court of an Emperor or Prince.

which time the Badſhaw was employed in receiving *nazurs*, returning preſents, and conferring honors upon his grandees and officers of the two armies, when he aroſe, and encircled by the eunuchs and *Aumeers* of his houſhold, who on that occaſion linking their hands together, conducted him to the tents where he kept his ſeraglio; when I was ſhewn to a tent by order of the acting Vizer, who informed me that I ſhould not be able to do any buſineſs with the Patcha till after the expiration of nine days, which interim I employed in obſerving the Maratta army and the Patcha's, a ſight eaſier to conceive at once than to relate in few words, but confined in time, I muſt cut this and other matters ſhort.

The then army of the Marattas conſiſted of one hundred and twenty-five thouſand horſe, interſperſed with perhaps 200 elephants, commanded by three of the moſt important chiefs of the Decan, viz. Sindiah, Nannahby, a Bramin, and Tucojahhalkah, with about fifty thouſand *Pindarrahs*, plunderers, mounted on big and little, old and young horſes and mares, with as many buffaloes, oxen and camels, to carry their tents and baggage, and about ten thouſand camels to carry the tents and equipage of the regular horſe; and about as many more camels to carry the goods and equipages of the various merchants, artificers and tradeſmen, who follow theſe armies, with perhaps upon an average, about fifteen thouſand buffaloes, laden with grain and *ghee*; which with flocks of ſheep and goats, deſtined for the ſlaughter for thoſe tribes in the army, whoſe laws permit them to eat fleſh, added to the thouſands of piadogs and jackalls that allured by the offals and carrion that falls to their lot among theſe itinerant troops, with the innumerable quantities of vultures and birds of prey, attracted by the ſame incentives, and the immenſe volumes of flies of different kinds, this immenſe

body of men and animals are ſo formidable and numerous, that on encamping on the frontiers of a territory, without drawing their ſwords, they can exact contribution. The wood they require for fuel and the graſs they require for forage for their horſes and cattle being ſo great that wherever they encamp, the ſpot thereon and circumjacent country is laid waſte, the trees are cut down, the graſs pulled up by the roots, and the wells and ponds in general dried of their waters, and dreary barren plains left behind; which, with above army of the Patcha, conſtituted the force prepared to reduce to obedience the revolted power of the country. The nine days elapſed, when I was informed he had received a meſſage from Eleabas, to prevent his employing me, in which they menaced him with detaining ſome perſon, as an equivalent, if he gave me any encouragement, upon which I took my leave and wiſhed him ſucceſs, and never ſaw him again until three years after that, in his palace at Delhy, where he was ſeated on the throne of his anceſtors, and received me with unexpected marks of attention; about which time Sir Alexander Champion, on St. George's day, in conjunction with Sujah Dowlah, engaged the Ruhillah army, commanded by Hafuſt Ramut, an eminent Patan, and totally defeated it at the beginning of the action; the Ruhillah general being knocked off his elephant by a cannon ball, and killed on the ſpot, when the Engliſh, after enriching themſelves with the plunder, marched with Sujah Dowlah to his dominions, where ſoon after this eminent Aſiatic warrior finiſh'd his days in the following manner: a beautiful young princeſs about 15 years of age, a grand daughter of the Ruhillah general, who had the Ruhillah's been victorious, would have been married to a prince, the ſecond in command to her grandfather's army; but he being killed and ſhe

taken

taken priſoner by the Vizier's troops, and carried before Sujah Dowlah, ſtruck with her beauty he paid his addreſſes to her, but diſappointed in his expectations of her yielding to his deſires, and attempting illicit means, the princeſs determined not tamely to yield to his unlawful embraces, in a conteſt between them that happened on the occaſion, by a blow from a poiſoned poignard that ſhe aimed at his heart, that in ſending off with his right hand entered deep into his thigh; notwithſtanding all the advice of many eminent phyſicians, and the joint efforts of doctor Fullerton, (then ſurgeon to the Engliſh army, and to whom the Vizier's mother promiſed ten lacks of rupees, ſhould he ſave the life of her ſon) the wound mortifying, and the baneful taint of the poignard contaminating his vitals, he expired in great agony fourteen days from that on which he received the blow;—and to prevent the circumſtances of his death tranſpiring but as little as poſſible, he was buried incognito, in Mawtabbaugh, at Phyzabad, in the forty eight year of his age.

Thus after having rendered himſelf conſpicuous, and even formidable in the eyes of Aſiatic nations, by a long ſeries of warlike enterpriſes, (by the hands of a female, a girl, and a captive!—in the centre of armed troops) fell this blazing ſtar of the eaſtern hemiſphere; he having in point of retinue, grandeur of his army, and brilliancy of his Seraglio, obliterated all his cotemporary princes in the Eaſt,—a juſt ſacrifice to his folly and diſhonorable aim. Adieu.

THE

THE author of the preceding pages, having by a long reſidence in India, acquired a local knowledge of thoſe parts that few Europeans can pretend to, and preſuming a liſt of a few articles that he imagines could not fail of ſelling well in ſome particular parts of India, might be acceptable ſubjoins the following liſt.

Plaſter of Paris, packed in barrels, to ſend up the Indus and Ganges. Daddybyſeet, a rich Perſian at Surat, or his folks at Bombay, would contract for large quantities.

French or Dutch cordials, in ſmall bottles, to retail on the coaſt of Mallabar.

Spermaceti candles and globe lamps, any where above Calcutta up the country.

Engliſh tin, iron hollow ware for the country armies, and iron boilers for their ſugar bakers; with light cannon for field pieces,—and braſs or other muſkettoons; with muſket balls, and cartridge-boxes, and moulds to caſt them in, would be bought up at a great rate by the Marattas in the gulph of Guzerat.——Any Guzerat, Debaſh, or Banyan, at the ſettlements in India, would treat privately for ſuch articles. Piſtols and muſkets, would be ſure ſale at the above places.

In return, ſtaple articles for the China market, could be had, viz.—Putchac, ſandal wood, ivory and ebony, with cotton at 6 l. ſterling per pound, the beſt ſort;—likwiſe cornelians, mocco ſtones, agates, &c. Putchac is a root thick as carrots, but the colour of ſnake root, uſed by the Chineſe in their dies, and bears a great price at Japan, Canton, and Manilla.

A GLOS-

A

GLOSSARY,

Containing an explanation of the Aſiatic names and terms not explained in the letters.

A

ALLIGORE, one of the names of the preſent Mogul. *Anterbade*, a tract of land lying between the great Ganges and the river Jumnah. *Aumeers*, ſynonimous to Omrahs, Grandees. *Aſſallam allycum*, in the name of God I hail you.

B

BOCKALLS, ſhopkeepers.——*Buzar*, a market place.——*Burs*, boats of great burden, uſed for the tranſporting of ſalt and ſaltpetre up and down the Ganges. *Beringealls*, hollow braſs timbrels. *Byragees*, Hendoo pilgrims. *Bramin kite*, kites with beautiful plumage. *Biſſim allah nirouah alloim*, in the name of God, Amen. *Badſhazadee*, the daughter of a ſovereign prince. *Bungaloes*, places like ſummer houſes. *Banyans*, brokers. *Budgeroes*, barges er gallies.

C

CHOQUEES, watchmen over goods by ſea or land. *Cuttlebaſhes*, Mogul horſemen, whoſe buſineſs it is to depredate principally with the ſword. *Cojahs*, children who have been emaſculate,

late. *Coolies*, a general name for laboring men. *Chunam*, cement. *Cheerabund*, virgins. *Claſſes*, ſeafaring men. *Chowrees*, whiſks made of the hair of cow's tails. *Chummars*, tanners. *Chillam* and *Chillamchee*, waſhhand bottle and baſon. *Catchary*, ſeat of juſtice. *Chop*, ſignet and ſeal.

D

DINGHY, a ſail-boat for fiſhing or ferriage. *Dandees*, rowers.

F

FAKIRS, itinerant fanatics or pilgrims.

G

GHEE, butter melted and boiled down 'till it is turned to oil, in which ſtate it will keep pure two or three years. *Gungees*, markets or places for fairs. *Godowns*, magazines or ſtores. *Gots*, wharves or landing places. *Gollandaſhes*, artillerymen.

H

HAFUSTS, aged men who affect to know the alcoran off by heart. *Hadgees*, Arabs or others who have viſited the tomb of Mahomed. *Hackeems*, quack doctors. *Hallacores*, cleanſers of common ſewers. *Hooker*, an Indoſtan pipe, with a bowl in form of a churn, fixed to a flexible tube that curves round the arm, from nine to fifteen feet in length. *Hadgerat Eeſah*, Chriſtians.

J

JAGHIRES, ſinecures of government, territorial or otherwiſe.

K

KILLADAR, captain of a fort.

MUN-

M

MUNJUN, an aſtringent powder for cleanſing the teeth, *Munſub*, a degree or rank in the realm. *Mol-vies*, theologicians and expounders of the alcoran. *Mohars*, gold rupees, equal in weight and ſize to ſilver rupees. *Mangees*, padrons or cockſwains of boats. *Mittee*, alluding to *multan mittee*, like fullers earth, but of aromatic ſmell.

N

NADGUMES, aſtrologers and fortune tellers. *Nizam*, ſovereign of the Decan.

O

OMRAHS, grandees.

P

PATCHA, a king. *Phillnaſhan*, elephant and ſuit of colours, a princely mark of diſtinction *Patans*, a tribe of mahometans. *Punkahs*, large or ſmall fans. *Pyrumbur*, prophet. *Peerzadah*, prieſt. *Pig-dannies*, ſpit-pots. *Punky*, or *Moor punkies*, long petiaugua rowed with paddles. *Pagoda*, an Indian temple, likewiſe a piece of gold coin. *Piadogs*, wandering dogs.

R

RASSALADAR, not an emperor's daughter, as repreſented in the letters, but a field officer. *Rajah*, a Gentoo prince. *Rupees*, ſilver coin in value from half a dollar to half a crown. *Ramol*, handkerchief. *Routtee*, bread. *Riets*, ſubjects.

S

SHAW AULLIM, preſent emperor of Indoſtan. *Shazadah*, ſimilar to the prince of wales in England, the dauphin in France, or infanta in Spain. *Soubah*, viceroy. *Sapary*, belonging to

beatle. *Sircar*, the government. *Shaſtra*, the Gentoos holy writ. *Seer*, about a pound weight. *Sewarwallas*, hog drivers. *Serindahs*, violins. *Sulphas*, pipes, but leſs than *hookers*, their tubes being like cyphons, and their bowls like cream-pots.

T

TAVEEGE, explained in the letters. *Top-pee-wallas*, men who wear European hats, meaning Chriſtians. *Tomtoms*, tabor and pipe men or drummers. *Tarſys*, a race of Indoſtan horſes.

Z

ZEMINDARS, freeholders and farmers.

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SUB-

SUBSCRIBERS' NAMES.

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B

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E

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F

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G

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K

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L

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Solomon

M

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N

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O

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P

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R

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kiel Robins, James Robinſon, William J. Robinſon, John Rodman, John Robertſon, Moſes Rogers, John Rogers, D. D. Cornelius Rogers, William A. Rollinſon, Joſeph Roſe, Nicholas I. Rooſevelt, Robert Roſs, Henry Rutledge, Albert Ryckman, Elbert Rooſevelt.

S

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T

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Thomas

V

Thomas Vail, Matthias Valentine, Adam Van Alen, William Van Beuren, Coertlandt Van Beuren, Jacob Vandervort, John Vanderbilt, Jeremiah Vanderbilt, Jacob Vanderheyden, Peter Van Devon, David Van Nauſer, John Van Noſtrand, Daniel Van Voorhis, Richard Varick, mayor, Joſeph Vear, Daniel Verplanck, Simon Vous.

W

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Y

Joſeph C. Yates, Dr. Joſeph Young, J. Young.

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RAHWAY:

Charles Howel Hughes.—William Lawrence.—Jonas Stanbury.

John

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Chambers, jun. John Cox, Gerſhom Craft, John Curtis.—Lewis Evans, James Ewing, Mrs. Maſkell Ewing.—Nancy Fiſher.—John Green, Captain of the Empreſs of China Indiaman.—B. Hanlon, George Holland, Iſaac Horner, jun. Aaron Howell, Elihu Howell, William. K. Hugg, B. S. Hunt.—Iſaac Lecan.—James B. Matehett, John M'Collum.—Ephraim Olden.— John Potts.—— James Ruan.—Charles Tomkins, Jacob Tomkins, jun. W. A. Turner.——Benjamin Williams.—— Archibald W. Yard.

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BURLINGTON:

Bowes Reed.—James Craft,—J. Henley.—Joſiah B. Loomfield.—Samuei Sterling.—Doctor Samuel Treat.—R. Jones.—Frances Buller.

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A

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B

Richard Babe, Richard Bache, Francis Failey, Henry Baker, Hilary Baker, Jacob Baker, John Barclay, John Barker, William Barton, Benjamin S. Barton, Simeon Belden, Peter Benſon, Robert Bernard,

Bernard, Robert Bethel, S. Bethel, Charles Biddle, William Bingham, Daniel Boechin, William Bood, Joſhua B. Bond, Elias Boys, Thos. Bower, Ebenezer Breod, Thomas Britton, H. Browne, T. Bryan, Iſaac Buckbee, Robert S. Buckley, Robert Budges.

C

Andrew Caldwell, James Campbell, Thomas Canby, George Carliſle, Matthew Cary, Thomas Caſh, Samuel Ceutly, Samuel Chew, Benjamin Chewir, J. C. (7) Thomas Clamfer, Wm. Clark, David Clark, John Clead, Meredith Clymer, W. Clark, William Coats, Nicholas Cochran, John Cochran, John Cole, George Cooper, James Cooper, Samuel Cooper, Thomas P. Cope, Frederick Coningham, Henry Cooper, Joſiah S. Cotes, Seth Craige, Jacob Chingman, Edward Compten, W. Council, James Crammand, William Cumming.

D

William Dalzell, John David, Wm. Davidſon, Abner Davis, John Daviſon, William Davis, Elias Dawſon, Robert Dawſon, Wm. Delany, Joſeph Deler Croix, Peter Dobet, Daniel Delaney, Benj. Duffield, John Dickins, Abraham Dubois, Iſaac Duncan, Joſeph D. Dunker, William Duvees.

E

Jacob Eckfeldf, Adam Eckfeldf, Worſley Emes, Samuel Emlin, Philip Erick.

F

Adam Faulk, Joſeph Fearon, Hugh Ferguſon, John Fiſher, Jamuel Fiſher, John Fiſher, Eliſha Fiſher, John G. Fenthan, Wm. Forreſt, Alexander Foſter, George Fox, Samuel Foudray, Jacob Frank, William Frombiſgu.

John

G

John Gammon, Benj. F. Garriguis, James Gaudette, Joſiah W. Gibbs, W. B. Goldthwait, Wm. Goldthwait, John Goodman, jun. Iſaac Gray.

H

Andrew Hall, Fred. Hamberger, Gavin Hamilton, Charles Harris, John Hart, James Hawthorne, Samuel Harlchurit, Sampſon Harvey, Chriſtopher Hemple, John Hervi, Joſeph Hewes, David Hickman, Robert E. Hobert, John Hofnel, jun. John Holland, Caleb Hoſkins, Thomas Howard, Aſheton Humphrys, D. Humphrys, James Hunter, Thomas B. Hurſh, Mahlon Hutchinſon.

K

John Keble, William Kenley, David Kennedy, Caleb Kember, George Kepple, William King, Wm. Kinnear, Fred. Krider, Samuel Krugſley, Frederick Kuhe, John Kunckell.

L

Mary Landell, John Lea, John L. Leib, Robert Latimer, Joſeph Lawnes, Dr. M. Leib, Robert Leſtie, Jerem. Lewden, Joſiah Lewis, Joſiah Lewis, John Lupton, Joſiah Lurley.

M

William Mackenzie, Anthony V. Mauncerick, William Martin, James Martin, Charles Maſſey, John Matthews, John Matin, Arch. M'Call, John Mayben, George Mead, Samuel Mead, George Meminger, John Mickeljohn, Thomas Mifflin, Preſident of the Commonwealth of Pennſylvania; Joſeph Miller, Wm. Miller, jun. Thomas Miller, William Millward, Thomas P. Morgan, Joſeph Morehane, John Morriſon, John Morton.

Randolph

N

Randolph Neff, Conyngham Neſbitt, John Nicholſon, Iſaac Norris, Thomas Norton.

O

Hugh Ogden, Wm. O'Hara, Joſeph Ollivier.

P

Samuel Parriſh, Pearſon Parvin, Edward Pinnington, Fred. Phile, Samuel Pleaſants, William Pollard, John Poor, John Porter, Edward Price, Procopis T. Pollock, Joſeph Price Pragers, R. Puttelgones.

R

Thomas Randall, James Read, James Rees, Philip Reilly, George Riepie, Jacob Ridgeway, Samuel Roberts, Thomas Rogers, J. Roſs, Geo. Rowe, Richard Rundle.

S

Wm. Sanſom, Benjamin Say, Fred. Schweickard, George Scloſſer, jun. Benjamin Scull, Jacob Screiner, John Shaw, Thos. Shaw, Jacob Sharles, Thomas Shields, Shurp Delany, David Skerret, Iſaiah Skinn, Geo. Simpſon, John Smith, Snowden and North, John Sowder, Philip C. Sommervanch, Wm. Standley, Walter Stewart, Robert Stevenſon, Henry Speel, Edw. Stanley, J. Stony.

T

Thackara and Vallance, Evant P. Thomas, Chriſt. Tobiger, John Tplift, Peter Thompſon, Jamas Todit, James Trueman.

V

Henry Voight, John Van Reed.

John

W

John G. Wackſmufh, Philip Wager, Lewis Walker, John Walker, Robert Walton, John Wallington, Frederick Watts, Matthew Watton, Jacob Weaver, Jeſſe Waterman, Bernard Webb, John Webb, John C. Wells, Samuel Wetherill, Johu Weſtcot, Hannah Wharton, Moore Whaiton, Henry Wharton, Samuel Wetherill, John Wilcock, Samuel Wilcox, Joſeph Williams, Iſaac Willis, James Wilſon, Fred. Wolbert, jun. Iſaac Wonell, Enoch Wright.

Y

Charles Young, Samuel Young, jun.

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